

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



CROSS **ROAD**
ARTS

CROSSROADARTS.COM.AU



Vision: Arts for all

Mission: We make art to change perceptions and tell stories that reflect our region.

Values:

- DIVERSITY:** respecting and embracing difference.
- SOCIAL JUSTICE:** access to and participation in the arts is a human right.
- FREEDOM:** to express yourself creatively and culturally.
- INTEGRITY:** acting honestly and valuing trust.
- AUTHENTICITY:** a safe place to be ourselves.
- INCLUSIVE:** arts for all

Photo: Crossroad Arts

Company History

Throughout Crossroad Arts' proud 28 year strong history the company has established itself as a leader in inclusive arts practice in Queensland.

Our mission is to provide access to creative expression through inclusive arts programs and practice to achieve our vision of 'arts for all.' We achieve this through the delivery of highly visible & innovative multi arts programs that capture and promote the essence of our regional voice.

We work with communities to celebrate diversity and culture. We ensure the challenges and ambitions of the community are central to the narratives being shared and developed with a specific focus on those with disability.

We create access points for unique partnerships with art and non-art organisations locally, in remote and regional western Queensland communities and across the Asia Pacific region.

We push beyond boundaries of social isolation, discrimination and inequity to contribute and cultivate the sector to create a sense of inclusiveness that celebrates art as a force of intrinsic good and a key ingredient for a better and more vibrant society.

Goals:

VISIBILITY: create and share highly visible, transformative and challenging work.

PRIDE: engage communities to foster change, diversity, visibility and pride.

LASTING IMPACT: amplify a broad range of powerful voices.

RESILIENCE: maintain a sustainable, resilient and adaptable company

Acknowledgement of Country:

Crossroad Arts acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of Australia. We deeply respect the Traditional peoples ongoing connection to Country and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge over 75,000 years of living culture and knowledge and the country on which we create our work, tell our stories through art making and where we live.

In Mackay, we acknowledge the Yuibera and Yuwi people and their Elders past, present and emerging.

We also recognise the Australian South Sea Islanders and the injustices and discrimination the community has suffered for over a century. We recognise that Australian South Sea Islanders are proud of their heritage and that they continue to maintain their identity and links back to their island homelands.

By collaborating with our community, unique stories are uncovered and unlikely partnerships are formed. We use these threads to connect the community, create vibrant spaces and experiences that strengthen the overall health and wellbeing of our region.

We create relevant and unconventional works that continue to agitate, spark discussion and promote Mackay as a leading inclusive destination that gives voice to stories that need to be heard.

In 2025 our core Artistic Program was encompassed by two pillars:

1. Artistic Development: programs designed to ensure development for new, emerging and established artists through rigorous, skills-based training in collaboration with local, national and international artists. With artists, we produce and present new contemporary original work that priorities stories of people with disability or who are d/Deaf.

2. Community Connections: using a strengths-based approach, our creative programs aim to improve physical, mental health and wellbeing and cultivate social connectedness for all participants and artists. Our programs challenge assumptions through inclusive collaboration and influence social change by building stronger, more connected communities through advocacy and art making.

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Cover photo: KR Photography



Vale Joshua Clarke (1985 - 2026)

Josh collaborated with Crossroad Arts for nearly 15 years and performed in several of our major shows, he was an original member of our Inclusive Arts Advisory Group, regularly taught t-shirt making workshops at C.R.U.S.H and loved Elvis more than anyone else we know. Josh was a keen radio announcer and often was the narrator or MC for our events and shows with his booming baritone voice and quirky sense of humour.

Josh was also a key community member in several other creative groups including Choir of Unheard Voices including a co-facilitator for their 'Come Sing' program, Bee Creativezzz and presented weekly on MY105 radio station.

He will be deeply missed as he was an instrumental artist in so many different community groups.



**Good night
everybody! Happy
LOOSE ENDS! You
don't have to go
home but you can't
stay here...!**

- Joshua Clarke
*Inclusive Arts Advisory Group Member / Performer
and Ambassador*



Photo: Cherrie Hughes Photography

Artist In Residence's Reports



Hi it's Charlee - (in a newsreporter voice) "Since doing lots of advocating I have gotten better at Annual Reports! Ladies and gentleman it's round two! Ding!"

At the start of the year we had to work out of the kitchen due to rain - (whispers...."mould!"). I kind of didn't have too much of a plan starting the year. It was the first time doing the Future is us program and we were all learning about my

part as a leader in projects like workshops, choreography for LOOSE ENDS and C.R.U.S.H and Unfamiliar Ground. I kind of like being able to learn different skills in different projects that other artists are doing so that I become a more well rounded person in diverse areas. It is tapping into another skill - flexing my artistic muscles and brain.

As the terms went on we needed more workshops - that's how Stage Sparks came to be what it is today! My new drama workshop. Stage Sparks is about taking people in my workshop and giving them skills to be able to get on stage and perform and have the confidence to perform in any mode or medium. It could be in dance, their expressions or their communication devices and teaching them how to put performances together that they can put on stage.

I felt a bit nervous doing the first Stage Sparks because I had never really taught a class - I usually would teach choreography or help devise performances for our shows. The process to create the workshop was Annalise and I would use a template with times and I would fill in the activities that we would do. Annalise's role was an Artist Support and she would support me in the class by time keeping and we met every Tuesday to run through and work out what we were doing each week. Towards the end of the year we ended up being able to map out the whole of each term. I feel a lot more confident and the class is growing in size! I like facilitating - it is such a cool thing to teach people with the skills that I have. I like encouraging people and seeing their confidence growing as well! And I know it also can influence them outside of their lives too.

Going to the Undercover Artist Festival is my favourite thing to do and choreographing the Opera was really fun. C.R.U.S.H was awesome because I had my sister there this year - she got to see what I do in my life with all of the people around me. I love C.R.U.S.H because of all the people from all over Australia that meet every year.

We also did advocacy for a lot of different things - we met with the funders and we explained to them our role at Crossroad Arts and what we do and what Crossroad Arts means for us. We advocated to the government - like we were invited to zoom meetings where we had a say and made sure that they heard us as it was often about our rights. I like doing that stuff because it is very important because I am a part of that community as well and I think that people with disability need chances to elevate their voice. Because a lot of non disabled people often make the rules for us - so it's important we have a say because it is about us.

In 2026 my hope for this year is to have a really good show in Unfamiliar Ground and to grow Stage Sparks and meet other

people and work with different communities and artists. I want to show them what we do but also to learn from them - make Crossroad Arts well known all around Australia.

Take care,

Charlee with a double 'ee' - peace out from the page boy!

Ambassador/Artist in Residence



SCOPE - I can. I dream. I uncover.

I'm writing about the SCOPE for the Annual Report for the first time!

SCOPE is a three-day theatre workshop designed to help young Deaf and Hard of Hearing people aged primary to secondary school develop their visual storytelling skills.

Throughout the workshop, participants shared their own stories, exploring themes like 'I can. I dream. I uncover'.

The workshop was held from September 5-7 at Crossroad Arts' office. We welcomed ten Deaf and Hard of Hearing participants from central Queensland, and we also included three Deaf artists to support the D&HH participants. Additionally, we had one CODA (Child of Deaf Adult(s)) to manage the technical and production aspects, one Deaf Photographer, one Deaf consultant and researcher to assess everything and all of them were from Brisbane. To ensure the SCOPE was a truly successful and rewarding workshop, we also had our local two interpreters, the Deaf consultant and six staff members from Crossroad Arts.

We're aiming to help D&HH participants feel confident, discover their hidden talents and learn about emotions and words through theatre techniques, expressive movement with images, build connections with others and use their imagination to explore endless possibilities, like seeing through a kaleidoscope.

SCOPE is about finding a common ground between Auslan and English, using visual language that everyone can grasp and use. We can all understand and adapt context, concepts and modifications to make it work for us.

Over the three-day workshop, participants got hands-on experience building a kaleidoscope, crafting liquid kaleidoscopes, making kaleidoscope sequins, exploring Laban 8 movements, designing newspaper activities, creating dye t-shirts and having some fun icebreaker activities.

We've created a truly beautiful, inspiring and exciting three-day workshop into a theatre storytelling experience about making kaleidoscopes on projectors, collages of amazing photos, three brilliant performances of Dancing Umbrellas, Flying Newspaper and Catwalks (t-shirt modelling). And they all did BRILLIANTLY and they did it! I can. I dream and I uncover.

I'm so grateful to all the sponsors and donors, the volunteers who helped set up in the production room, Deaf artists, CODA and interpreters for your wonderful support. A huge thank you to everyone from Crossroad Arts who worked with SCOPE over the months of preparation to make it all happen.

I'm really excited about our second SCOPE event in April!

Tony Moore

Ambassador/Artist in Residence



Chair's Report

I am the Chair or Treasurer of a dozen organisations and am frequently asked: "Which one is your favourite?". Often, I'll reply "Oh I couldn't possibly say" – mainly because I could get caught out saying that every one of the twelve is my favourite, and there are no secrets. But, and I know I can rely on your discretion to keep this between us, I have to say that Crossroad Arts is the favourite.

The arts in Australia is facing enormous challenges; from freedom of speech issues, to uncertain funding, to questions of relevance. Many organisations face significant creative and financial restructuring; many have, and many more, will close the doors. The major players, in the capital cities, will continue to provide audiences with music, performance and art, largely unchanged; elsewhere the outlook is fraught, and particularly for organisations like Crossroad Arts, supporting and creating opportunities for people with disability, and based in regional Queensland, halfway between Brisbane and Cairns.

That we are still here at the end of 2025, and facing 2026 with a significant funding cut, is a testament to the staff, supporters and board; but, and more importantly, we are going into 2026 energised and in some ways stronger than ever. But the staff, supporters and board are not the most important cogs in the Crossroad Arts machine.

No, what has kept us powering on are the artists and the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group. It is their determination to not just continue the Crossroad Arts legacy, but to magnify that legacy, that drives the rest of us.

There was much to fear with the loss of funding, we could either cut our program back to bare bones and hope to survive on our reserves until the next round of multi-year funding opened (with no guarantee of success on that front), or continue to deliver our workshops, events and activities as usual and, if we ran out of money, we ran out of money. It was the artists who delivered the decision to keep the fires alive, a decision universally endorsed.

When I look back on 2025 the fruits of that decision have filled the basket of creative achievements. From packed workshops; to the FRESH CUT mural artwork at the Plane Creek Mill; the C.R.U.S.H. program bringing disability identifying or D/deaf artists into Mackay from regional Australia; Tony Moore's SCOPE project involving an intensive weekend workshop for young Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, a project designed for all Deaf and hard of hearing children in Queensland and, ultimately, Australia. I could go on but I'll just make special mention of the Candlelit Opera in the Woods.

Held in a local timber yard the Opera featured an ensemble of Crossroad Arts artists performing with Katie Stenzel and Jon Maskell from the Queensland Opera, courtesy of Crossroad Arts board member Mark Taylor, CEO of Opera SA. The singers performed as if stages were usually a platform in a timber yard, the green room was the area behind a stack of planks, and the supporting cast were young people with disability; they were all amazing and when Katie put her arms around the interpreter as the latter was signing the former's lyrics, I couldn't stop crying.



I mentioned above the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group. This comprises members of our artists and works closely with the Artistic Director/CEO, staff and board in the development of the artistic program; they tell us what they want to do, it's our job to make that happen. This is the guiding principle of Crossroad Arts, our strategic plan is structured to lead to a completely disability-led arts organisation, with members of the Group joining the board, initially in a mentored observing role, and when they feel confident and comfortable in that role, to take the next step. That decision will be theirs. They will be the ones taking Crossroad Arts into the future. And that's why Crossroad Arts is my favourite.

Finally, my deep and profound thanks to Autumn and all the staff whose commitment to Crossroad Arts is unbounded, to fellow board members, to our funding partners Arts Queensland and Creative Australia, and our dear friends at the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Tim and Gina, and to the Mackay community, its businesses and individuals who have taken us to their hearts with financial and other support.

Thank you all.

Brian Tucker
Chair





Photo: KR Photography



Photo: Katrina Garvey



Artistic Director/ CEO's Report

We made it to 2026! Not without some new learnings, art muscles (as Charlee calls them) and joyful connections. Writing this report each year is a task. How do I capture a whole year of activity - invite you into our world up here in Mackay and sprinkle some of that Crossroad Arts magic in words?

Crossroad Arts' folks have a knack for adapting quickly and finding a sense of humour when things go sideways - after a particularly wet 'wet season' we returned to the office to find some extensive water damage. Operations quickly relocated to the Masonic Hall kitchen - a small room attached to our building. A long singular table, with our computers, laptops and an expanded creative team - our first year of our new leadership model was cosy! Elbow to elbow - we were able to still continue program delivery whilst repairs happened in the background.

Our Workshop Program kicked off the year and we were excited to introduce a new visual arts program called For Arts Sake created and led by Inclusive Arts Advisory Group member Hannah Izard. Our regular theatre and dance workshops led by Charlee Presland, Annalise Mawer and Lauren Heitman returned with classes quickly filling up. Due to demand in Term 2 we introduced another visual arts workshop and another theatre workshop called Stage Sparks. Weekly we were welcoming over a 100 people through the

doors to explore creativity, nurture new friendships and build confidence.

Once the repairs were finished we reopened our office with our first ever Giving Day in partnership with Mackay Chamber of Commerce. The Giving Day was a huge success with \$7,000 raised in a couple of hours. Each dollar raised was matched by Creative Partnerships Australia and was a wonderful way to celebrate reopening to the public. The support we received energised us - we were ready to go and show folks what we are made of!

Our 2025 Artist in Residence artists - you laid out an epic path for Crossroad Arts!

As part of our Future is us leadership program new legacy projects were debuted. Our Artistic Vision is devised and directed by our artists, Inclusive Arts Advisory Group and community through formal and informal consultation. This led to the creation of FRESH CUT - our high school workshop intensive that resulted in a 60 meter long artwork created by Sarina State High School Inclusive Education students. A bright and colourful activation alongside the Plane Creek Mill that can be seen proudly from the Bruce Highway.

Another project called SCOPE - led by artist Tony Moore brought together Deaf and hard of hearing students from across regional Queensland to explore theatre, production

and visual arts. The impact of this project was far reaching and highlighted a major gap in Deaf-led creative practice opportunities for young Deaf and hard of hearing people. Due to interest and evaluation this program will scale over the next 5 years - with statewide delivery to happen in 2026. Congratulations Tony on an epic program!

Charlee Presland let us know in 2024 her ambitions as an artist were to lead workshops and build up to taking her projects and practice on tour - specifically regionally (look out 2027!). In 2025 Charlee created a new workshop called Stage Sparks alongside her colleague Annalise Mawer. Charlee led the warm ups at C.R.U.S.H and choreographed performances for our major fundraiser and LOOSE ENDS. Charlee is a natural advocate in many settings and her enthusiasm for showing the world that we are making work "just as excellent" is definitely noticed. Thank you Charlee for always spreading the word and bringing your humour to every project!

In 2025 we also changed our development model for our major production - 1 year of development and presentation in year 2. Sacha Lagaluga led creative development sessions weekly for our new major theatre work called Unfamiliar Ground. During those sessions Sacha uncovered the creative ideas, stories and aspirations of an ensemble of 12 artists. Through Sacha's nuanced and poetic vision the work developed is an exciting and ambitious production that will debut during the 2026 Mackay Festival of the Arts. I want to thank Sacha for her considered approach to all of our artists and her determined inclusive collaborative practice and for sharing her creative energy with the work.

In between all of this we also hosted our first Candlelit Opera - a bespoke fundraiser held in the Porter's Timber Yard. Featuring performers Australian Opera Soprano, Katie Stenzel, Baritone Jon Maskell, accompanied by acclaimed repetiteur Brendan Murtagh. The evening was lit by over a thousand candles and is an event still spoken of as a magical and unexpected evening. Who knows where we will stage the next one?

Our signature annual events C.R.U.S.H and LOOSE ENDS were our biggest yet. For C.R.U.S.H we had artists with disability or who are Deaf travel from far and wide - this project is one that fills our creative cup. Sometimes after projects there is a fatigue that takes a while to bounce back from - C.R.U.S.H is the opposite; we feel energised by the collaborations and the celebration of developing our arts practice. Thank you to Dancenorth, Undercover Artist, Artspace, Crossroad Arts Artist in Residence artists and Joshua Clarke and Margie Ross for making the weekend special.

MC's Georgia Knoll and Annalise Mawer guide us on the kooky, eccentric journey that LOOSE ENDS is. It is a chance to celebrate International Day for People with Disability and we do it in our own way - laughter, singing, painting and some side show antics. It was also a great evening to thank our sponsors and supporters - and we appreciate that they jumped on stage this year to do an aerobics session led by Georgia once we had reached a fundraising milestone on the evening!

Alongside all of our creative programming we were also advocating and consulting to the broader arts sector and our artists spoke to many levels of state and federal government, participated in roundtable discussions and attended sector events. We also loved attending FLOW festival (national and international Deaf arts festival) and Undercover Artist (national disability-led theatre festival). We loved these experiences as a team and meeting other Deaf and disabled artists, seeing new work and making connections that will feed into future projects. Whilst we love our bubble up here in regional Queensland, these opportunities to travel connect us and enrich us with the broader conversation. As Mackay folks we take every moment we can to bring visibility back to where we are from and share our pride.

All of this work is underpinned by an incredibly small dedicated team. In our Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 our company structure centres our artists and in the outer circle are all of the roles that support that to happen. We don't have the official "art words" for it yet (although in our Strategic Plan we call it 'Huggy Wuggy') and interchangeably all of us (artistic, operational or board) we are working and supporting each other to make the creative vision of our community a reality.

A huge thanks to Company Manager Lesa Walker for her dogged commitment to keeping the operational cogs turning even in the tough times and her kindness that welcomes all who walk through the door and also for being a calming presence when the chaos can be overwhelming. As we say at Crossroad Arts "Lesa has the money!" and Lesa creates a step by step plan for us to do the ambitious things we want to do with confidence because she is always there backing us up.

Sponsorship and Development Officer Melissa Broadhurst for sharing the vision of Arts for All within our private sector and securing much appreciated funds for our projects so that we can realise our artistic dreams - Melissa hustles hard and has a finger on the pulse for how we can innovate (first ever Giving Day, our largest ever Annual Giving Program and our epic Candlelit Opera) - Melissa translates our work across many worlds and always brings connections to our artists.

Artsworker Annalise Mawer for switching hats and baroque wigs if needed to keep the Artistic Program delivery on track. Annalise creates an artistic environment that feels supportive, creative and fun. I also need to shout out her ability to problem solve on the fly (i.e SCOPE when Annalise created a mechanism to control umbrellas descending from the ceiling on cue). Annalise can understand an artist's spark and then quickly go about building what they need for it to be seen.

Marketing Officer Brenden Hayles - whilst involved with Crossroad Arts for many years as a photographer or videographer this was his first full year in a more regular role. Armed with a camera floating in and out of workshops, major projects or events - Brenden often extended himself outside of just his marketing role; he built a camera kaleidoscope for Tony, helped us with every set up and pack down, spruiking Crossroad Arts at networking events and always eager, enthusiastic to be a part of the Crossroad Arts crew.

Also a massive thanks to everyone behind the scenes like our other workshop facilitators Lauren Heitman and Sara Butler for always working to make sure workshops are supported, fun and inclusive environments. To the supports, family and friends who show up with spare bobby pins, hairspray or makeup, backstage snacks, car pool together, hem up pants or rehearse scenes at home - we appreciate you! Thank you for being a part of the Crossroad Arts crew!

We look to 2026 with a mixed feeling of excitement, BIG ambition but also with a feeling of grief. Our second week back in 2026 we learnt that our long time friend, colleague and collaborator Joshua Clarke had passed suddenly and unexpectedly. Josh was involved in many creative projects in the Mackay community and this loss is felt deeply.

During a project, rehearsals or performance - Josh (or Elvis no. 2 as he would call himself) would often say a phrase. If there was an unexpected moment or a mistake Josh would take a pause, lower his baritone voice and say "take two". Often erupting in his unmistakable laughter he would then carry on with the task at hand. We will miss you Elvis no.2 and always remember to 'take two' if we need.

Autumn Skuthorpe
Artistic Director/CEO

Artistic Development

Crossroad Arts is passionate about creating opportunities for people with disability who are serious about developing their skills in contemporary performance. We offer artistic development programs that ensure people grow as artists by providing rigorous, skills-based training in collaboration with professional artists.



Why SCOPE project? It's so important for the Deaf and hard of hearing. If you think about the fact that they're home, isolated from other Deaf and hard of hearing peers, that Deaf culture, those role models, something that they'd be missing out at home...they get together here at the SCOPE project and they can realise that they can they can dream and they can uncover.

- Tony Moore, Artist in Residence and Ambassador

Artist In Residence

THE FUTURE IS US

The Artist in Residence program employs artists with disability or who are d/Deaf to work closely with the Crossroad Arts team on the creation of new work, advocacy and they deliver the Artistic Program and strategic goals of Crossroad Arts. The artists are typically engaged to work on projects weekly to lead and develop disability-led projects, events and workshops and represent Crossroad Arts in leadership roles.

After major consultation the Artist in Residence program now sits under an umbrella called The future is us. The future is us is a disability and Deaf-led leadership pilot with a long-term commitment from Crossroad Arts in our Strategic Plan. It seeks to create flexible and adaptable leadership pathways for Deaf or disabled artists to develop and lead their own projects. Crossroad Arts commits to project budgets and provides producing and administrative support so that artists can focus on creating their work alongside our community.

In 2025 Sacha Lagaluga, Tony Moore and Charlee Presland worked on their own projects and programs weekly. They also shared their skills, expertise and knowledge with the broader arts sector to encourage increased pathways for Deaf-led and disability-led practice.

Advocacy and Leadership:

- Presenting and attending events i.e Giving Day, major fundraiser, stakeholder meetings, sector consultation, private sector gatherings and Chamber of Commerce events
- Identified formal evaluation partnership with Creative Australia (SCOPE)
- Several presentations to broader arts and disability ecology; FLOW Festival, Queensland Disability Network, Arts Access Victoria, Arts Queensland and Creative Australia

Community Connections:

As part of Charlee's creative focus of connecting others with Crossroad Arts programs she developed a series of community workshops of which she was lead facilitator. These workshops included:

- Assistant facilitator for Stretchy Pants weekly workshop and creative lead for the warm up elements
- Lead facilitator for new workshop Stage Sparks.
- Warm up workshop for C.R.U.S.H our national performance making intensive in partnership with Dancenorth and Undercover Artist Festival
- Lead choreographer for new performance work for major fundraising event Candlelit Opera
- Lead choreographer for new performance work for LOOSE ENDS

Tony Moore launched a new project SCOPE for young Deaf and hard of hearing people. This project was developed to address the major barriers for young Deaf and hard of

hearing people living in regional Australia. The theatre making intensive explored Deaf identity, increased Auslan skills and comprehension and most importantly created connections for isolated Deaf children to their peers. Tony also delivered theatre making workshops as part of C.R.U.S.H.

- Worked weekly on the development of SCOPE
- Based on previous Education Queensland experience identified major barriers and gaps for young Deaf and hard of hearing regional Queenslanders
- Connected with Deaf arts community including Queensland Theatre of the Deaf, FLOW Festival and independent Deaf arts practitioners
- Brokered a formal evaluation of SCOPE through Creative Australia
- Created pathways for scale - 2026: SCOPE will have a statewide focus on participants and national collaborations with artists. 2027: national participation. 2028: international collaborators.
- Raised and elevated the voices of regional Deaf and hard of hearing people to highlight the differences in access to metro community.
- Created theatre workshops for C.R.U.S.H

Artistic Development:

Sacha Lagaluga led the creative development of new major work Unfamiliar Ground. Sacha worked closely with an ensemble of 12 artists that captured their stories and explored themes around technology and nature. This creative development allowed artists to creatively devise the work from the ground up and has grown into an ambitious project that will debut in 2026. Sacha also worked on an access workshop for DARTS - however this was postponed due to a cyclone.

- Weekly creative development sessions in collaboration with artists exploring theatre, contemporary dance, inclusive co-collaboration
- Community consultation to establish key themes, story and aesthetics
- Explored contemporary themes that reflect the lived experience of our artists
- Created pathways for artists that no longer live in Mackay to contribute to the creative process and created a role for our artists who are more interested in visual arts
- As a result of the creative development process a new major work is ready for rehearsal and presentation for 2026.
- Creation of access workshop for DARTS

Artist in Residence: Sacha Lagaluga, Tony Moore, Charlee Presland

Artist Support: Annalise Mawer and Autumn Skuthorpe

Artist Employed: 5

Community Connections

Community is our driving force. Everything we do as a company is underpinned by the belief that creating artistic works which challenge assumptions through inclusive collaboration ultimately builds stronger communities.



I love the workshop programs because it is a place that feels safe and it feels like home.

- Tahlia Houston,
Workshop Participant

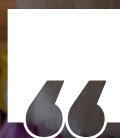
Workshop Program

Throughout the 2025 Workshop Program performers developed new skills and made new friends. For many it was an opportunity to grow confidence in performance making and storytelling and to continue collaborating with others. The workshops were suitable for those with and without disability or who are d/Deaf and we saw many returning participants and also welcomed new participants. Notably, it was great to see participants grow throughout the whole year either resulting in pathways to other projects or positive outcomes for school participation or feelings of isolation. The Workshop Program is a safe and inclusive entry point to Crossroad Arts programs and is a relaxed environment without heavy focus on artistic outcomes.

The Workshop Program continues to be an integral part of training and development for participants who are interested in exploring creative practice in a fun and relaxed environment.

Overall outcomes of Workshop Program:

- Increased engagement and return enrolment from new participants
- Creation of new programs for a diverse range of ages
- Increased confidence, social skills and improvisation/ collaboration skills
- Employment of 6 facilitators and 1 artist support
- Referrals from support workers and service providers to potential participants outside of our networks.
- Community connections and outreach beyond our current supporters.
- Expansion of the program to meet interest from the community.
- Unexpected impact outcomes for students engaging with the programs to support their education, including re-engagement with attending school.



I come every week to see my friends - it is the best part of my week. We laugh a lot!

- Erin McGarry,
Workshop Participant

Performance in the Gallery

Drama workshops for everyone!

In this exciting partnership with Artspace Mackay, participants with and without disability were invited to respond through drama, movement and music to the current exhibitions.

Participants learnt new skills, built confidence and made new friends in a safe, fun and inclusive environment! Workshops were suitable for those with and without disability or who are d/Deaf.

We enjoyed deepening our understanding of the different exhibitions at Artspace Mackay and using visual arts as a stimulus for our storytelling. Highlights for all of the participants were our gallery visits where we could examine up close and personal the themes of the exhibitions.



Participants

Term 1: 17 / Term 2: 17 / Term 3: 17 / Term 4: 17

Facilitator: Annalise Mawer

Artist Support: Lauren Heitman Artist Employed: 2



Photo: Brenden Hayles





Stretchy Pants

Dance and movement workshops for everyone!

Dance and movement workshop participants with and without disability or d/Deaf were invited to put on their favourite stretchy pants and get moving!

Participants enjoyed learning more about the unique ways we can move our bodies, explore storytelling through dance techniques and express ourselves through contemporary movement.

In 2025 it was great to see participants continuing on with workshops and expanding their skills. We also welcomed a new wave of Crossroad Arts participants who are either in senior high school or school leavers joining the Stretchy Pants classes. Every Tuesday Crossroad Arts is filled with laughter, energetic moves and cracker tunes!



Participants - Morning Class

Term 1: 15 / Term 2: 15 / Term 3: 15 / Term 4: 15

Participants - Afternoon Class

Term 1: 7 / Term 2: 7 / Term 3: 7 / Term 4: 7

Facilitator: Lauren Heitman

Artist Supports: Charlee Presland, Annalise Mawer

Artist Employed: 3



I am strong and I like to dance by myself - it makes me feel powerful - look out!

- Sally Morley, Workshop Participant

Stage Sparks

Ignite your spark into stories on stage!

In this workshop, participants learnt creative techniques in a unique and inclusive environment with a focus to create their own group and individual performances. Through Charlee's facilitation the group explored different techniques, they built their confidence in performance and explored ways to share their stories on the stage. Each week the workshop participants were reminded - every great story starts with a SPARK!!

Stage Sparks was introduced to meet the demand for workshops and also Charlee's interest in developing her own workshops for the community.

Facilitator: Charlee Presland

Artist Supports: Annalise Mawer

Artist Employed: 2



**My biggest learning,
The most important thing
I took away was how
differently everyone works
and how to adapt to meet
their artistic needs..**

**I think that the young
people seeing me doing
what I am doing gives
them hope for a future
for themselves. That's
why it is important to
have people with lived
experience in leadership
roles.**

- Hannah Izard,
Workshop Facilitator

For Arts Sake!

Learn how to make
visual art

Visual Arts was new to our workshop program in 2025 as we spoke to the demand that was very evident in our community. Participants explored the world of visual arts with workshop facilitator Hannah Izard and learnt how to make art for art's sake! They were encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and Hannah taught different tools and techniques on how to make art for fun and as a way to express positive practice.

This workshop became so popular that a second class was made in terms 3 and 4 of 2025.



Participants - Monday class

Term 1: 10 / Term 2: 10 / Term 3: 10 / Term 4: 10

Participants - Thursday class

Term 3: 5 / Term 4: 5

Facilitator: Hannah Izard

Artist Support: Muddy Grimes

Artist Employed: 2

ROAR

Theatre making for the
untamed!

Participants with and without disability were invited to let all inhibitions go and get wild in this workshop that explores untapped imaginings through movement, sound and theatre making techniques.

Participants enjoyed learning a variety of different drama and theatre making techniques. The progress of the participants was evident in their confidence, their interest in trying new things and the new friendships formed in the group.

We look forward to continuing the program in 2026!



Participants

Term 1: 12 / Term 2: 16 / Term 3: 16 / Term 4: 15

Facilitator: Annalise Mawer

Artist Support: Sara Butler

Artist Employed: 2





Photo: Brenden Hayles

Wearable Art

Create and wear original art!

Wearable Art is offered as another form of art making for participants that are interested in making and designing their own wearable art. As classes progressed we included opportunities to have the wearable art works showcased at Crossroad Arts events. Over the four terms participants made capes, fascinators, animals and crowns. Wearable Art artists became a highlight of the LOOSE ENDS evening with their telethon performances and assisted in raising donations!

Wearable Art participants are keen to return in 2026 and expand their Wearable Art performances at LOOSE ENDS as they are an audience favourite on the evening!

Facilitator: Hannah Izard
Artist Support: Muddy Grimes
Artist Employed: 5



Nathan's costume is almost done, I think it's really cool and beautiful. Melissa was making wings for her costume. I am excited to see everyone's full costume at LOOSE ENDS on the 6th December. I am so very proud of everyone and thank you for Hannah and all of her beautiful talents!

- Tash Tomlinson,
 Ambassador and Workshop Participant



Photo: Brenden Hayles



All photos: Lesa Walker

Street View Gallery

A gallery just off the street!

Street View Gallery featured artists to have their work exhibited for a month on our office walls in the heart of Mackay!

This opportunity was opened to emerging, mid-career and established artists with disability from the Mackay/Whitsunday/ Isaac region. Artists with mental health conditions or who are neurodiverse and for those who are First Nations or LGBTQIA+ were encouraged to apply.

Street View Gallery is an opportunity to exhibit artwork in a supported environment. Crossroad Arts also happens to be located in a high traffic part of the Mackay CBD and many artists sold work as a result. Artists have organised their own exhibitions or collaborations since their involvement with the Street View Gallery which is an excellent outcome.



Street View Exhibition Dates:

April - December



Giving Day Opening Attendees: 200

Artists: Diane Keioskie, Dom Wall, Terry, Brandon Edelman, Annabelle Norton, Annameika Mawer, Breannan Moir



I love the exhibition as we get to see artwork from Mackay artists and also it give me an opportunity to purchase work that I wouldn't otherwise be able to see.

- Visiting Guest



Window Gallery

Videos created throughout the year were projected onto our street facing double Window Gallery which is situated in the heart of Mackay's CBD in the bustling Wood St cafe precinct.

The projection of the films promoted Crossroad Arts programs at night in a high traffic area and also contributed towards the revitalisation of the City Heart.

In 2025 we projected the artworks that were a part of our Street View Gallery exhibitions and also as part of Illuminate celebrations. We also coincided the projections in line with the Mackay City Heart Friday initiatives to increase foot traffic in the CBD.

Total nights projected: 90

crossroadarts.com.au

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C.R.U.S.H

Community. Regional.
Up Skill. Haven

In partnership with Dancenorth (Townsville) and Undercover Artist Festival (Brisbane) C.R.U.S.H was an exciting 3 days of workshops in contemporary movement, performance and theatre making.



Date October 31, November 1, November 2



Venue Senior Citizens Hall,
58 Macalister st, Mackay



Participants 52
Audience 60

Facilitators: Jordan Galliot, Andi Gilham, Maddie Little, Tony Moore, Charlee Presland, Joshua Clarke and Margret Ross

Artist Supports: Autumn Skuthorpe, Lauren Heitman, Annalise Mawer, Lesa Walker, Melissa Broadhurst and Ebony Walker

C.R.U.S.H continues to have a national focus to promote professional development opportunities for artists with disability and to also promote the region as an inclusive arts destination. As always C.R.U.S.H was tailored to suit all ages, bodies, minds and levels of artistic experience - from raw beginner to highly accomplished performers, and/or dancers.

2025 was the seventh year of C.R.U.S.H and was a full 3 days of storytelling, movement and collaboration. Under the guidance of experienced facilitators Jordan Galliot and Andi Gilham (Dancenorth), Maddie Little (Undercover Artist Festival), Tony Moore (Crossroad Arts) and our Ambassador/Assistant Facilitator, Charlee Presland as well as local artists Joshua Clarke and Margret Ross, participants learnt skills in theatre making, storytelling, movement and dance and wearable art techniques. A sharing of what was learnt and created in the workshops was presented in a casual showing in front of family and friends on the final day.

Participants also visited our premier gallery, Artspace Mackay to explore and gain inspiration to frame the workshops. This year our workshops responded to the En Plein Air Exhibition at Artspace Mackay that featured beautiful paintings of landscapes from our region and beyond. Thank you to Bradley Short for his artist talks that gave us a deeper insight into the works.

We were thrilled to have new participants hailing from all parts of the country in attendance making a total of 45 participants plus their supports. By creating an environment where



DANCENORTH AUSTRALIA

**UNDERCOVER
ARTIST**



All Photos: Cherie Hughes Photography

artists with disability can develop their practice in contemporary dance, movement and inclusive theatre making. C.R.U.S.H continues to strengthen a national network of inclusive practitioners and promote the vibrancy of artists with disability living in the regions. C.R.U.S.H furthers the development of the regional arts sector by creating access points to professional training and development that directly addresses the barriers of geographical isolation in a supported and tailored environment.

Crossroad Arts was able to fund 9 scholarships (to cover travel and accommodation) for artists with disability from regional towns across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia to attend. Often regional artists find it expensive or difficult to travel to professional development opportunities so Crossroad Arts hopes to continue to offer scholarships in the future.



If you're nervous about coming to C.R.U.S.H or you're not sure whether it's for you, then just take the chance, honestly, because you don't know what will happen until you try, and chances are, if you do try, you'll end up learning things about yourself, making friends, and having a beautiful experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

- Alessandra Finnis, C.R.U.S.H scholarship recipient from Mt Gambier, SA





**Thank you, thank
you very much,
Elvis is leaving
the building.**

- Joshua Clarke, LOOSE ENDS performer

LOOSE ENDS

Kooky. Social. Inclusive.



Date Saturday 6 December



Venue Mackay Entertainment and
Convention Centre



Audience 215



Amount Raised \$8,119

LOOSE ENDS continues to grow each year while still closing out the year in the uniquely inclusive, kooky and social way our community have come to expect. Crossroad Arts in association with Mackay Entertainment & Convention centre present LOOSE ENDS as part of celebrations for International Day for People with Disability. We were excited to welcome our favourite MC Georgia Knoll and her co-host with the mostest Annalise Mawer with their sparkly out of this world costumes and wit to run the evening.

The evening featured performances from Strictly Wheelchair Dance Group, With One Voice Choir, Choir of Unheard Voices, Groove Movers, live painters Dominique Wall, Buttercup Plant and Cordelia Izard, Joshua Clarke Elvis Trivia, and Crossroad Arts performers and Wearable Art participants. This year our fundraising performance telethon returned which meant some audience participation and from Crossroad Arts staff and donors too! (Cream bun eating competition was a hit!)





LOOSE ENDS also launched the Annual Giving Program for 2025/2026 and saw the exciting announcement of GW Industrial matching \$1 for \$1 up to \$5,000 for any donation made as part of the campaign!

North Queensland Bulk Ports came on board to support the event as a sponsor alongside our returning Silver Sponsor for the eighth year in a row, Plaza Dental.

PERFORMERS:

MCs: Georgia Knoll & Annalise Mawer

Acknowledgement to Country and welcome to the evening

Groove Moovers: Co-ordinator/Collaborator: Lauren Heitman

Wearable Art and Telethon Launch: Nathan Sellick, Natasha Tomlinson, Shae Matton, Melissa Petersen and Charlee Presland

Live painters:

Dominique Wall, Buttercup, Muddy Grimes and Cordelia Lzard

Strictly Wheelchair Dance Group:

Choreographer: Madison Hunt

Co-ordinator/Collaborator: Peter Sumpter.

Karaoke Competition: Seb Cali

Choir of Unheard Voices: Conductor: Margaret Ross

With One Voice Choir:

Conductor/Co-ordinator/Collaborator: Vanessa Dale

Elivs Trivia: Joshua Clarke

Dr D. Kay: Mathew Deane, Phil Deane and Barbie Stott

Donation Tally, Raffle & Lucky Door Draw: Prizes are drawn by our Mayor, Greg Williamson and Member for Mackay, Nigel Dalton

Crossroad Arts: Charlee Presland, Georgia Knoll, Alycia Carroll, Olivia Tomsett, Seb Cali, Sara Butler, Matthew Deane, Stacey Whiting, Hannah Lzard, Sally Morley, Tegan O'Keeffe, Natasha Tomlinson, Lauren Heitman, Annalise Mawer and Autumn Skuthorpe

Choreographer: Charlee Presland

Artist Support: Annalise Mawer and Autumn Skuthorpe

LOOSE ENDS VOLUNTEERS:

Hannah Izard, Shae Matton, Belinda Crichton, Natasha Tomlinson, Nathan Sellick, Penny Jansen, Charlee Presland, Kim Presland, Billie Little, Felix Vogrinec, Dominique Wall, Buttercup, Muddy Grimes, Cordelia Izard, Breanna Deguara, Chris Adda, Jeff Walker, Ebony Walker, Alan Scott.

LOOSE ENDS DOCUMENTERS:

Photographer & Videographer: KR Photography

Auslan Interpreters: Holly Menzies & Katherine Yeoman-Owens

Thank you to our sponsors:

North Queensland Bulk Ports, Plaza Dental, MECC, Mackay Regional Council, and all the parents and support workers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make it happen & to all the wonderful artists this evening who so willingly donated their time. Big shout out to all our prize donors who generously made our raffle such a success.

LOOSE ENDS raised \$8,119



Fresh Cut

High School Program

Over 5 weeks Sarina State High School Inclusive Education students worked alongside Crossroad Arts artists Muddy Grimes and Autumn Skuthorpe to create an artwork representing their sense of place and dreams for the future.

Students created colourful and bright portraits of themselves - featuring aspiring rugby league stars, a sparkly pink wrapped Landcruiser 97 series, sugarcane in the rain, hybrid humans and lots of anime inspired characters!

The artworks have been installed as part of celebrations of the crushing season and represent young people in the Sarina region! The artwork is over 50 meters long and is installed alongside the Distillery Fence of the Wilmar Plane Creek Mill.

Be sure to stop and take photos when you are travelling along the Bruce Highway and grab a cuppa at the Sugarshed Cafe when you're in Sarina

A huge congratulations to the students for this wonderful artwork! A massive thank you to our sponsors (you are instrumental in making this large scale artwork happen!):

Gold Project Sponsor: BOLD Architecture

Silver Project Sponsor: Wilmar Sugar

Signwriting Partner: EZY Sign Solutions

Project Partner: Sarina State High School

Facilitators: Muddy Grimes, Autumn Skuthorpe

Participants: 20

Incidental audience - Bruce Highway Traffic: 34,600



I like that I can see my artwork on the mill - I told my parents to come down and have a look. I hope you guys come back next year. I want to make another one next year!

- Participant





Photo: Brenden Hayles

Alun Rhys Jones - Mark Making Workshop

Participants learnt still life drawing skills from artist Alun Rhys Jones. On a lovely Sunday morning we worked with charcoal and learnt more about Alun's practice. Participants also enjoyed an in depth look at Alun's exhibition "The Rainbow Sport" which was exhibiting at Artspace Mackay at the time. Thank you again Alun for a wonderful morning of art making and connection!



Venue Artspace Mackay



Artist Support: Hannah Izard
Participants: 12



Photo: Crossroad Arts

Production and Technical Workshops

Crossroad Arts participants, staff and volunteers headed to Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre to learn from their production team about Production and Tech basics. In small groups we rotated between learning about lighting, audio and staging. We look forward to putting those skills to use! Thank you to the MECC and their staff for showing us the ropes!



Venue - MECC



Production and Tech team: MECC
Participants: 15



MACKAY
ENTERTAINMENT
CONVENTION
CENTRE



Artist Support Training



Date Thursday 29 May



Venue Mackay



Participants 8
Artists employed 3



Crossroad Arts partnered with Undercover Artist Festival and Festival Director Maddie Little to deliver Artist Support Training for support workers in the Mackay region.

Alongside Crossroad Arts artists, Artists in Residence and Ambassadors, supports and collaborators were invited to training on how to be an artist support. An artist support provides access and creative support during workshops, projects or major productions.

It was a great day to learn about how to make the arts more equitable for our artists and for supports to feel confident when supporting during workshops, project and productions.

Many thanks to Maddie Little for sharing her insights and making the session fun and providing practical information to use during projects.



SCOPE

SCOPE was a wonderful project exploring Deaf pride, identity and expression through Deaf led theatre making activities. Students learnt about performance making, lighting, tech and production, costume making, projection making and storytelling. Workshops were led by Deaf leader Tony Moore and in collaboration with creatives from Queensland Theatre of the Deaf and additional support from leaders from the Queensland Deaf community.

On the final day students performed a showing for an audience of over 70 community members. The showing culminated all of the workshops and showed off their costumes, lighting and tech designs, their own self made projections and performances.

Many families commented that it was the first time they had seen their child or loved one participate in a program like SCOPE and that their Auslan language development was significantly increased post the project.

Crossroad Arts provided a professional theatre setting for the students, many who had never performed before. By being in a Deaf space students increased their language skills through Auslan, made new friends and their confidence grew.

All students and their families expressed keenness to attend next year's SCOPE. We also undertook a formal evaluation in partnership with UQ and Deaf consultants and will have formal results collated in 2026 to assist with planning for SCOPE to scale as a national program.



At the start she didn't want to perform but then over the 3 days in the performance she was a confident leader helping direct the younger children. And she wasn't scared when addressing the audience at the end. It is extremely important for young Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to attend - most of her life is in isolation. It is great to see Hannah express herself and see she is not alone, other Deaf and Hard of Hearing people normal, fulfilling lives!"

- parent



I was especially awed with Anthony Moore's skill throughout the weekend. He demonstrated the qualities of a strong Deaf leader and teacher, and I believe he is highly suitable to lead this workshop in the future. It would be marvellous if he could also play a role in upskilling Deaf young adult artists, helping to nurture the next generation of Deaf leaders in the arts

- Sally Strobbridge, Deaf consultant and Deaf leader

Where: Crossroad Arts

Creative Lead/Director: Tony Moore (Mr. Moore)

Deaf Artist Support: Erin Davies, Todd Kenny (Queensland Theatre of the Deaf)

Technical and Production: Gilbert Whitney

Stage Manager: Carley Logan

Photographer: Katrina Garvey

Deaf Consultant: Sally Strobbridge, Kylie Moore

Auslan Interpreters: Holly Menzies, Kathy Yeoman-Owens, Emily Christofferson

Researcher: Dr. Rhonda Faragher

Videographer: RR Photography and Videography

Deaf and Hard of hearing participants/artists: 20

Audience: 70

Crossroad Arts Artist Support: Charlee Presland, Autumn Skuthorpe, Brenden Hayles, Annalise Mawer

Producing support: Lesa Walker, Melissa Broadhurst



BHP





Photo: Brenden Hayles

ADVOCACY

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group

The Inclusive Arts Advisory Group is a paid opportunity for people who live with disability and/or who are D/deaf including those with mental health conditions, hidden disability, chronic illness or who are neurodiverse. It was formed in 2021 and the group is largely made up of people who have an interest in the arts or are practicing artists themselves.

The group met throughout the year to advise on the accessibility of Crossroad Arts projects and productions and also assisted with being another mouthpiece in the community by spreading the word about upcoming events and programs.

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group Members: Sally Morley, Georgia Knoll, Hannah Izard, Jasmine Pearce, Cynthia Gregg, Alexandra Buchanan, Joshua Clarke, Tegan O'Keefe, Charlee Presland



We definitely increased advocacy this year and I really enjoyed being able to speak for myself and speak on behalf of other people who might not feel brave enough to speak about what they need. So people can come and tell us what they need and pass it on.

- Hannah Izard, IAAG Member and Workshop Facilitator

In 2025 the organisation undertook a lot of consultation leading up to our next strategic period and through the feedback of the community, our core artists and the Inclusive Arts Advisory Group Crossroad Arts begin shifting the way we define leadership.

There were also several additional meetings, consultations and feedback sessions adhoc throughout the year for Strategic Planning and Artistic Program design.



Sector Advocacy

Crossroad Arts artists, board and team are committed to representing the voices and ambitions of artists with disability or who are Deaf across the broader sector. We are proud to represent regional Queenslanders and endeavour to attend key sector catch ups - through these trips we have connected with peers, identified new stakeholders or collaborators, broadened our understanding of sector needs and uncovered potential pathways for state and national presence. When we travel to sector events we also utilise the opportunity to meet face to face with our philanthropic partners and funding bodies. This allows us to share impact stories of our work and also connects our artists with our funding stakeholders. In 2025 we met with the Minister for the Arts John-Paul Langbroek, Arts Queensland, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and Creative Australia.



SCOPE

Crossroad Arts team travelled with Tony Moore to meet with Queensland Theatre of the Deaf, Deaf Hard of Hearing Services and UQ Business School researched Dr. Kate Power to highlight key priorities and gaps for young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Queenslanders. We also were able to learn more about Deaf Arts practice in Queensland.



When 30 April



Venue

Queensland Theatre of the Deaf, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Queensland, UQ Business School





Photo: Brenden Hayles



Photo: Crossroad Arts

Undercover Artist Festival

Crossroad Arts artists and team attend Undercover Artist Festival bi-annually and the festival is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the broader Arts and Disability community. There are limited national meet ups for artists with disability and our artists don't often get the chance to see other disability-led work. Attending this festival is critical to developing collaborative partnerships and professional development for our artists. We love spreading the Crossroad Arts cheer at Undercover and it also gives us an opportunity to meet potential participants for our annual program C.R.U.S.H



When 22-26 September



Venue Queensland Theatre, Brisbane



Who Charlee Presland, Natasha Tomlinson, Tony Moore, Lesa Walker, Melissa Broadhurst, Annalise Mawer, Autumn Skuthorpe, Brenden Hayles, Ebony Walker



Photo: Lesa Walker

Paul Harris Fellowship Award Winner

On 11 July 2025, Crossroad Arts was invited to attend the Handover Dinner to welcome the new incoming president for the Rotary Club of Port of Mackay. We were asked to attend, albeit a little sneakily, to present an overview of our wonderful organisation, Crossroad Arts where 3 staff proudly attended.

During the dinner, little did our very own Autumn Skuthorpe, Artistic Director/CEO of Crossroad Arts realise, she was about to be awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by outgoing president, Miki Ponting-Boyd. This is considered a very prestigious award and Autumn was very honoured to be considered and presented with the fellowship pin. The Paul Harris Fellowship is a significant recognition within the Rotary community, celebrating individuals who contribute to the Foundation's mission of service and humanitarian efforts. It reflects a broader commitment to making a positive impact in the world. Autumn was speechless and honoured to be recognised in this way by the Port of Mackay Rotary group. Autumn's colleagues and outgoing Chair Miki Ponting-Boyd were very good at keeping the award evening a big surprise!

Autumn has been with Crossroad Arts since she was a teenager, firstly as a participant then became involved in some of the early productions in late 2000s. Since then has evolved as the company's executive officer, then Artistic Associate for around 10 years. Autumn became the Artistic Director/CEO in 2023 and has advocated for our community on countless occasions and committed to the work of our artists being seen and heard, becoming an integral part of the legacy Crossroad Arts is.

Big congratulations to Autumn, very well deserved!



Photo: Lesa Walker



All Photos: Brenden Hayles

FLOW Festival

Flow Festival is Australia's national Deaf arts festival held in Melbourne. Tony Moore was invited to present on a panel discussion as part of the 2025 program. During this trip Tony and the Crossroad Arts team were able to connect with other Deaf artists and meet with the FLOW team to discuss future opportunities in 2027. Tony shared his learnings and insights about his project SCOPE.

As a result of the FLOW Festival connections we will engage Jaycob Campbell (GONKETA graffiti artist) and Luke King (visual artist) to deliver workshops in Mackay as part of the 2026 SCOPE program. Continued consultation has highlighted the need for our young Deaf and hard of hearing regional people to meet other Deaf adults working professionally in the arts. It is also important for metro Deaf artists to understand the additional barriers regional Deaf people face. This exchange of experiences and skills feeds into Crossroad Arts commitment to scale SCOPE nationally.



When 19-21 September



Venue Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne



Who Tony Moore, Annalise Mawer, Autumn Skuthorpe, Brenden Hayles





Sponsorship and Development

Annual Giving Program

Crossroad Arts launched the 2025 Annual Giving Program campaign at the 2024 LOOSE ENDS. We were thrilled to announce that Creative Partnerships Australia was coming on board to match funds \$1 for \$1 up to \$35,000 - our most ambitious fundraising target to date.

The campaign aimed to increase the profile of Crossroad Arts, introduce potential new sponsors and donors to the important work that Crossroad Arts does and maintain a connection with our community and our current supporters.

Local businesses and individuals generously donated to Crossroad Arts and helped us achieve beyond our target and our vision of Arts for All.

Annual Giving Program Donors: Belinda Hassan, Mark Taylor, Debbie Chilton, Susanna Rossi, Jacki Wirth, Felicity Chapman, Wade Pattison, Daly Bay, Leonie Wood, Gina Whatuira, Brian Tucker, Limitless Asset Assurance, Jessica Lamb, Kylie Houston, Tameika Anderson, Elizabeth Arlott, Coalface, Jennifer Dent, Autumn Skuthorpe, Gerri Kissner, Traci Lietzke, Harriet McLennan, Tracey Heathwood, Jacquelyn Connal, Gina Whatuira, Tracey Robb, Peter McCallum, Nikaylia Wise, Leanne Druery, Buddy Richardson, Alison Richardson, Geoff O'Connor, Maddie Little, Margaret Ross, Alison & Victor Norton, Joshua Clarke, Chris Adda, Melissa Broadhurst, Frank & Annameika Mawer, Logan Davis,



Lagaluga-Davis Whanau, Katrina Dhu, Belinda Crichton, Sharon Johnston, Nigel Dalton, Ross Piperone, The Tate Family, Suz Shannon, Bonnie McCarthy, Natasha Tomlinson, Karen Tomlinson, Frederic Gros-Dubois, Sarina Community Bank, Patrick Rane, Moyea Maclean, Jessica Lamb, Barbara Schusser, Sunrise Rotary, Brenden Hayles, Brooke McReynolds, Helen McCullagh, Blue Gum Family Trust, Louise Sawtell, Emma-June Curik, Port of Mackay Rotary, Mackay City Property, Mackay Chamber of Commerce, Gavan Porter, Sue Houston, Peter Tait, BMA, Mackay Community Foundation, West Mackay Rotary, Jordan Galliot

Annual Giving Program raised: \$69,060
(before Creative Partnerships Australia matched funding)



All photos: Brenden Hayles

Annual Giving Day

Crossroad Arts hosted its very first Mackay Chamber of Commerce B2B Coffee morning on 15 April and we made a day of it. This ingenious idea is a wonderful chance to network, catch up with the Mackay business community and of course, have a coffee! All before kicking off your workday.

Overwhelmingly supported with around 150 people in attendance, the coffee certainly flowed and the crowd was entertained with our Crossroad Arts crew performing their synchronised swimming routine, in costume of course! A business card draw saw us give away some amazing prizes from StarFM Radio, artist Leonie Wood and some tickets to our bespoke major fundraiser Candelit Opera in the Woods.

This was also a great opportunity for Crossroad Arts to launch its inaugural Annual Giving Day which contributed to our Annual Giving Program for 2025. Our target was the highest it had been and this was also the perfect way to let our community know who we are, what we do and how well we do it! Raising some \$7,000 towards our goal and pushing us closer to achieving our \$ for \$ matching campaign.

The Giving Day ran from 8am to 8pm with a steady flow of visitors all day enjoying our treat of guest artists, up and coming singer Lucas Gakowski and live painter, Hannah Izard.



I like to think my support of such a vital company as Crossroad Arts, contributes directly towards providing exceptional creative pathways for its many artists of disability.

- Leonie Wood, Donor & Arts Patron





All photos: Jim Cullen Photography

Major Fundraiser

Candlelit Opera in the Woods

What a fabulous night it was in our awesome secret industrial location Porters 's Timber yard. It was a night of Oooohs, and Ahhhhs as guests joined us on the footpath and the roller door lifted to reveal a stunning opera wonderland lit by a sea of a thousand candles.

Guests were greeted by our brilliant Crossroad Arts Performers in baroque opera costumes.

With a magical and sublime performance from the superstars of Australian Opera Soprano, Katie Stenzel, Baritone Jon Maskell, accompanied by acclaimed repertoire Brendan Murtagh, plus performances from our very own Mackay City Strings Quartet and the brilliance of Crossroad Arts Opera in the Woods performers. It was an intimate evening in support of Arts for All!

A special acknowledgement to our Auctioneer, Trevor Chapman, and thank you to the State Opera South Australia and Helloworld Mackay, and acclaimed Australian artists, Alun Rhys Jones, Dylan Mooney, and Digby Webster, for the very generous donations of auction works.

This wonderful event was proudly supported by Principal Sponsor Mackay City Property, Gold Sponsor Helloworld Travel Mackay & Mt Pleasant, Porters Mitre 10, State Opera South Australia, with delicious canapes from Fish D'vine Catering & Events and boutique wines from Joval Wines.

Plus a big thank you to Quest Mackay on Gordon, Saige & Sohl, Ella Baché Mackay, artist Leonie Wood, Judi Wynne, and Ron McBurnie, and Master Potter Arthur Rosser (Vale 2020), Artspace for donated raffle prizes.

Lastly thank you to event supports, in kind donors and the staff and team at Porters Mitre 10 Timber Yard, Milton Picture Framers, Artspace Mackay, Mackay City Property, Muddy Grimes, Hannah Izard, Shanna Souvlis, Trevor Chapman, Ebony Walker, Eleanor Woodman, Breanna Deguara, Brenden Hayles, Jeff Walker, Chris Adda, Warren Broadhurst, Charlee Presland, Georgia Knoll, Sara Butler, Stacey Whiting, Matthew Deane, Natasha Tomlinson, Pam Tate and Lauren Heitman.

Major Fundraiser raised: \$25,000

MACKAY CITY PROPERTY



STATE OPERA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MITRE 10 Trade



MILTON
PICTURE FRAMERS



JOVAL
WINES



Funds Raised \$25,000



Venue Porters Mitre 10 Timber Yard,
Carlyle Street, Mackay



Event coordinator: Melissa Broadhurst,
Sponsorship and Development Officer

Crossroad Arts performers: Charlee
Presland, Hannah Izard, Matthew Deane, Sara Butler,
Stacey Whiting, Georgia Knoll, Natasha Tomlinson,
Annalise Mawer, Lauren Heitman

Crossroad Arts project support: Lesa Walker,
Annalise Mawer, Autumn Skuthorpe, Brenden Hayles

Volunteers: Jeff Walker, Ebony Walker, Muddy Grimes,
Hannah Izard, Eleanor Woodman, Warren Broadhurst,
Chris Adda, Richard Norton

Board: Brian Tucker, Mark Taylor, Dyane Norton, Nikki
Wise

Photographer: Jim Cullen Photography





Sponsors and Donors

Crossroad Arts continues to nurture relationships with our local private sector to increase sponsorship and donor income. Majority of our operational costs are dependent on government funding. By increasing local sector support we are able to strengthen our programs and ensure that they have a sustainable future regardless of major funding outcomes.

The sponsorship and donor program has steadily grown since the appointment of Sponsorship and Development Officer Melissa Broadhurst. We would like to celebrate and acknowledge the following businesses who support Crossroad Arts vision of Arts for All in 2025.



Project Partners and Sponsors

MAJOR FUNDERS

**DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND**



**Queensland
Government**

Crossroad Arts is supported by the Queensland Government
through Arts Queensland



Principal Sponsor
of the 2025
Artistic Program:



Print Partner
2025:



C.R.U.S.H:
Gold Sponsor:



Project Partners:

DANCENORTH
AUSTRALIA

**UNDER
COVER
ARTIST**

LOOSE ENDS:
Gold Sponsor:



Project Partners:

Silver Sponsor:



MACKAY
ENTERTAINMENT
CONVENTION
CENTRE



A BUSINESS UNIT OF
MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



SCOPE:
Sponsors:



**MACKAY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

BHP

Arts Patron:



Fresh Cut:
Gold Sponsor:



Silver Sponsor:



Project Partners:



Alun Rhys Workshops:

Project Partners:



**Production & Technical
Workshops:**

Project Partners:

MACKAY
ENTERTAINMENT
CONVENTION
CENTRE



A BUSINESS UNIT OF
MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Candlelit Opera:

Principal Sponsor:



MACKAY CITY PROPERTY

Gold Sponsor:



**STATE OPERA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



Project Partners:



**JOVAL
WINES**

Artist Support Training:

Silver Sponsor:

Project Partners:



**UNDER
COVER
ARTIST**

Financial Statements

Crossroad Arts Inc. 2025

Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2025

INCOME	2025	2024
Box Office & Performance	2,809	13,392
Workshops & Seminars	45,948	29,243
Retail	115	782
	48,872	43,417
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Received	5,729	6,363
Other Revenue		
Donations & Sponsorship	101,899	58,562
Darymple Bay Coal Terminal (Principal Sponsor)	10,000	10,000
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation	120,000	100,000
In-Kind Support	155,865	111,585
	393,493	286,510
GRANTS EXPENDED		
Creative Australia, 2-year Pilot Funding	165,000	
Creative Australia, 4-year Organisations Funding		154,546
Arts Queensland, Organisations Fund	140,000	140,000
Creative Partnerships Australia, Core and Operational Support	40,000	-
Mackay Community Foundation 2025, LOOSE ENDS	-	15,000
Regional Arts Fund Community Project Grant Program, Unlock the City	-	7,347
DARTS Bursary, JUTE Theatre	-	1,000
	345,000	317,893
TOTAL INCOME	787,365	647,820

EXPENDITURE	2025	2024	EXPENDITURE	2025	2024
Accounting & Bookkeeping Services	-	200	Interest Expense	1,904	1,831
Advertising, Marketing & Promotion	12,730	12,841	Long Service Leave, Movement in Provision	4,446	6,185
Amortisation Expense	21,894	16,896	Merchandise	-	-
Audit Expenses	3,200	3,200	Office Consumables & Resources	16,864	13,801
Bank Fees	179	271	Program, Production & Exhibition Expenses	129,531	81,847
Board Expenses	4,888	1,962	Repairs & Maintenance	3,996	1,455
Business Consultant	2,711	6,691	Staff Travel	25,101	5,413
Depreciation	1,926	1,144	Superannuation Contributions	34,817	27,989
Electricity	1,914	1,266	Telephone & Internet	2,955	2,575
Holiday Pay, Movement in Provision	15,010	12,883	Wages & Other Employee Expense	332,152	298,094
Inclusive Arts Advisory Group	1,520	3,040	Workers' Compensation Insurance	6,650	6,029
In-Kind Support	155,865	111,585			
Insurance	-	17,339			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:				780,253	634,537
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR				7,112	13,283

Statement by Members of the Board

The Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report:

1. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Crossroad Arts Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
2. The financial statements and notes easily satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed on behalf of the Crossroad Arts Inc in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission. Regulation 2023 by:

Chair:



Brian Tucker

Treasurer:



Nikaylia Wise

Dated this 27th day of February 2026

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

CURRENT ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	642,648	643,257
Trade and other receivables	126,807	11,698
Prepayments	9,043	-
	778,498	654,955
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	-	1,926
Right-of-use Asset	65,682	14,256
	65,682	16,182
TOTAL ASSETS	844,180	671,137
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	49,192	41,061
Provisions	25,385	16,857
Lease liability	21,505	14,974
Other liabilities	328,000	235,000
	424,082	307,892
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	23,924	19,477
Lease Liability	45,294	-
	69,218	19,477
TOTAL LIABILITIES	493,300	327,369
NET ASSETS	350,880	343,768
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	350,880	343,768
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	350,880	343,768

Independent Auditor's Report

As auditor for the audit of the Crossroad Arts Inc for the year ended 31 December 2025, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2025 there has been:

1. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
2. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Name of Firm: AMW Audit, Chartered Accountants

Name of Director:



Billy-Joe Thomas

Address: Perth, Western Australia

Dated this 27th day of February 2026



Photo: KR Photography

Staff and Board

Inclusive Arts Advisory Group: Sally Morley, Georgia Knoll, Hannah Izard, Jasmine Pearce, Cynthia Gregg, Alexandra Buchanan, Joshua Clarke, Tegan O'Keefe, Charlee Presland

Artist in Residence, Future is us artists: Tony Moore, Charlee Presland, Sacha Lagaluga

Artistic Director/CEO: Autumn Skuthorpe

Company Manager: Lesa Walker

Sponsorship/Development Officer: Melissa Broadhurst

Artsworker: Annalise Mawer

Marketing Officer: Brenden Hayles

Social Media Officer: Natasha Tomlinson

Workshop Facilitators: Hannah Izard, Lauren Heitman, Annalise Mawer, Charlee Presland

Artist Supports: Sara Butler and Muddy Grimes

Crossroad Arts Board

Chair: Brian Tucker

Secretary: Dyane Norton

Treasurer: Nikaylia Wise

General Board members

Mark Taylor, Trish Ely, Tracey Heathwood, Alexandra Buchanan, Felicity Chapman



CROSSROAD
ARTS

Photo: KR Photography

**Contact
Us**

For more information on Crossroad Arts please contact:

admin@crossroadarts.com.au / 07 4953 5122

or via the National Relay Service

www.crossroadarts.com.au