TRACKS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Letter from the Chair

Tracks Dance Company experienced another successful year despite all the challenges that came our way. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to become more flexible in the way we worked and gave us a different perspective on our future. The team transitioned quickly to working from home, which enabled the company to remain dynamic and effective in the unprecedented times.

Adding to the COVID -19 challenge, and during the lockdown, Tracks received the news that we, alongside Darwin's Brown's Mart Theatre and many other performing arts groups across Australia, were not successful obtaining future Multi Year funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. While this news definitely hit us hard, I would like to highly commend the Executive team for responding to this news with maturity and positivity and for being able to articulate a clear pathway to move forward.

Despite the pandemic, Tracks still managed to have a full year and continuously connected with the community. The team's agility in dealing with cancellations, social distancing, COVID-19 restrictions and program changes was remarkable. Additionally, our commitment to honouring any contracts that we had with independent artists regardless, of performance outcomes, definitely set us ahead in the community.

Tracks ended the year on a high, winning an Australian Dance Award for the Outstanding Achievement in Community Dance for our 2018 production of In Your Blood. Tracks still managed to conduct studio showings for our Artists in Residence Program, continued with our Grey Panther Friday classes through Zoom, connected with the community on a regular basis through several Dead Singers Dance Society courses, presentation at conferences and the Dance Doctors made a sensational comeback. Furthermore, the company collaborated with the Darwin Festival, GUTS Dance, Desak Putu Warti and Jocelyn Tribe to produce North of Centre for the 2020 festival program.

Our unwavering commitment to continuously deliver development programs for independent dancers is evident by not one, but 3 development programs that ran throughout the year. Homebodies, a response to life in physical isolation involved 12 Tracks alumni and PIVOT(ALL) Choreographic Program allowed 9 emerging movement artists to develop their individual artistry within a supportive framework and a new edition the Youth Choreographic Residency providing a week's intensive for young dancers.

All these achievements would not be possible without our funding bodies, sponsors and donors who's support allows Tracks to continue to be a vibrant and dynamic company and a leading arts organisation in the ecology of the Northern Territory's creative industries.

I warmly thank the Tracks Board and staff for their unwavering commitment to our values and for always ensuring that we are leading the way, the Trustees for diligently overseeing the Public Fund, our Tracks family of choreographers, dancers, participants, volunteers and production

teams for giving their skills, time and energy to the company and our amazing donors! We would be at a lost without you all.

Whilst 2020 was a tumultuous year for everyone, the strength of the company makes me excited to see what 2021 brings us. We have launched our first major fundraising campaign supported by Creative Partnerships Australia through their Plus 1 program. We have made a promise to donors that funds raised will go towards paying independent artists and creative allied industry workers in 2021, helping the performing arts sector get back on its feet. I have had the absolute pleasure of Chairing the company in 2020 and look forwards to taking up the same role in 2021.

Thank you to everyone involved with the company. We could not have done it without you!

Venaska Carmoni Cheliah

2020 AT A GLANCE

2 Seasons
12 Ticketed performances
452 Tickets sold
(N.B Covid-19 restricted numbers to these performances).

8 Pop-ups
14 Works performed at the pop-ups
895 Approximate audience

30 Studio development hours for Seasons of Skin and Bark
4 Studio Residencies
76 Studio Residency Hours

63 Remote community workshops (Lajamanu)
272 Attendees at remote community workshops (all Indigenous)
3 Set design workshops (Essington School)
30 Attendees at set design

192 Studio classes / workshops / masterclasses delivered across the year

3 External presentations

84 GP classes (Darwin and Coomalie)
36 Zoom GP classes

65 Creatives employed
5 Production / Technical staff employed
7 Core staff employed

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

TRACKS INC.
ABN 83 009 367 124

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 $	2019 $
Income			
Revenue	3	1,079,167	1,072,311
Expenditure			
Direct program costs		(65,593)	(196,139)
Non-direct program costs		(289,775)	(297,938)
Salaries, wages and fees		(492,867)	(523,159)
Total Expenditure		(848,235)	(1,017,236)
Profit for the year	4	230,932	55,075

Report from the Treasurer

Another successful year financially for Tracks despite a significant setback with ongoing government funding.
Changes in company operations as a result of COVID 19 restrictions and government funding changes resulted in better-than-expected financial results.

The 2020 audit confirms that the company over-achieved on its financial goals for this financial year, with an operational surplus of $231K compared to $55K in 2019. Net assets also increased from $716K to $946K.
Tracks is well placed to manage expected operational and funding challenges in the year to come.

Glenn Bernardin Treasurer

GOVERNANCE

Stewarding Tracks Inc through 2020 were:

Tracks Committee Members

Chairperson:	Venaska Cheliah
Vice Chairperson:	Andrea Wicking
Treasurer:	Glenn Bernardin
Ordinary members:	David Taylor, Michael Grant, Rachael Wallis, Max Stretton, Ken Conway
Ex-Officio Members:	Adelaide Wood (Public Officer), David McMicken and Tim Newth

Trustees: Maari Gray, Lachlan Peattie and Will Crawford

Patron: Her Honourable the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Tracks Core Staff

Artistic Co Directors:	Tim Newth AM and David McMicken AM
Company Director:	Adelaide Wood
Dance Animateurs:	Kelly Beneforti and Jessica Devereux
Production Manager:	Duane Preston
Administration:	Jessica Mellor and Jo Shearn

Location - How to find us

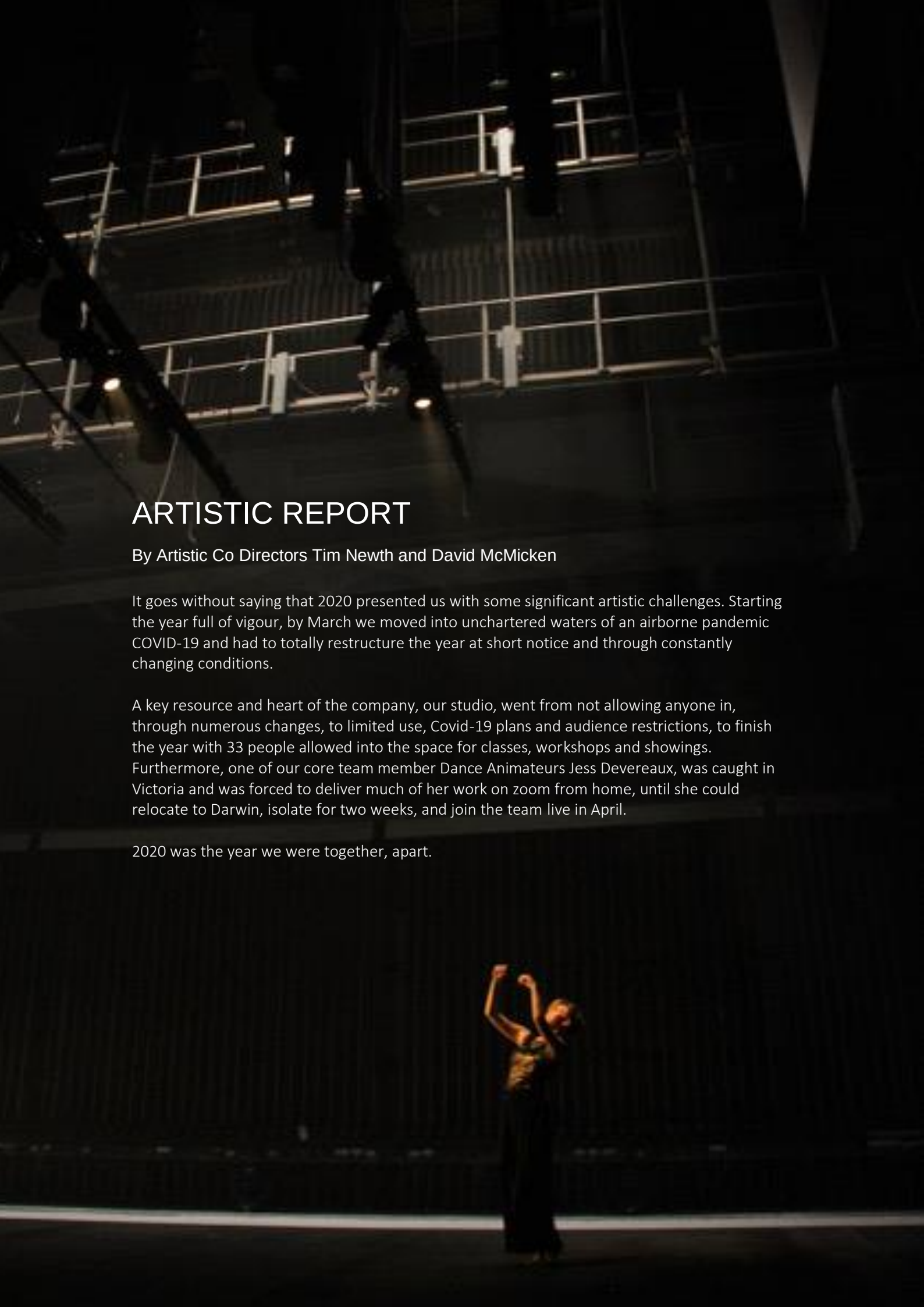
TRACKS INC office and studio are based on the ground floor at:
Harbour View Plaza, 8 McMinn St, Darwin, NT 0810

Mail address is: GPO Box 832 Darwin, NT 0810

Website: www.tracksdance.com.au
Socials: #tracksdance

Financials

BAS/IAS	It Figures Bookkeeping
Auditor	Brian Tucker Audit



ARTISTIC REPORT

By Artistic Co Directors Tim Newth and David McMicken

It goes without saying that 2020 presented us with some significant artistic challenges. Starting the year full of vigour, by March we moved into unchartered waters of an airborne pandemic COVID-19 and had to totally restructure the year at short notice and through constantly changing conditions.

A key resource and heart of the company, our studio, went from not allowing anyone in, through numerous changes, to limited use, Covid-19 plans and audience restrictions, to finish the year with 33 people allowed into the space for classes, workshops and showings. Furthermore, one of our core team member Dance Animateurs Jess Devereaux, was caught in Victoria and was forced to deliver much of her work on zoom from home, until she could relocate to Darwin, isolate for two weeks, and join the team live in April.

2020 was the year we were together, apart.

Milpirri - Yinapaka (Major work)

March/April/May and September
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/milpirri-yinapaka

Covid locked down remote communities and meant we postponed the biennial Milpirri performance in Lajamanu until 2021.
Key Development Activities:

- March: We were able to garner some time with Steve Wanta Jampijinpa Patrick as he passed through Darwin, consolidating Milpirri Yinapaka content. Yinapaka is a significant Warlpiri sacred site. In Jukurrpa (Ceremonial Law - Dreaming) it is where the birds went to learn to fly. In Warlpiri, the level a bird flies can be related to law and achievement.
- April/May: We utilised our core creative team in Darwin to work on developing potential choreography for the performance postponed until 2021
- May: We established Zoom links with Lajamanu school and delivered choreography dance classes on line from Darwin (May)
- April /May: Working between Darwin, Lajamanu and Melbourne via zoom, we engaged the Melbourne based composers to create the music for the soundtrack with the intention of adding the Warlpiri vocals once we were able
- September: Lajamanu community reopened its borders, we spent 2 weeks in the school running dance workshops.

Creative Director: Steve Jampijinpa Patrick
Artistic Directors: Tim Newth, David McMicken
Key Artists: Kelly Beneforti, Madeleine Brown, Jordan Bretherton, Marc Peckham, and Rob Tremlett

Seasons of Skin and Bark (Major work)

February and July/August
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/seasons-skin-and-bark-development

In February we engaged the artists to work from home and in the studio when possible, to develop the music, choreography, lighting design, and costumes solidifying the core concepts to drive the performance, visually, choreographically and musically.
By July/August we were back in the studio and were able to work with a group of dancers and the choreographers to explore, experiment, improvise and devise new dance coming from themes of the natural world, seasons, and human interactions. This happened alongside the development of the soundtrack. A small showing of choreographic ideas was held August 5.

Concept and Artistic Directors: Tim Newth and David McMicken
Choreographers: David McMicken, Kelly Beneforti and Jess Devereux
Musical Director: James Mangohig
Costume Designer: Ann Gibb
Lighting Designer: Chris Kluge
Production Designer: Tim Newth

North of Centre

July/August
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/north-centre-co-presented-darwin-festival

Resulting from the Covid -19 restrictions, North of Centre was an additional project to the annual program and the first ever co-pro with the Darwin Festival. This season brought together the energies of Northern Territory dance – from the deserts of Central Australia to the south (Guts Dance Company), to the tropics of South East Asia to the north (Putu Desak Wati and Jocelyn tribe) and NT premier contemporary dance company Tracks (Darwin). In three short works; a solo, duet, and trio were created, where dancers explored their connection with place and their understanding of its diverse people. Stepping onto The Playhouse stage at Darwin Entertainment Centre, the audience was immersed in these brand-new dynamic dance works. (Performance Season August 11-13)

Concept: Darwin Festival and Tracks Inc
Artistic Producers: David McMicken and Tim Newth
Lighting Designer: Nathan Da Cunha

Solo.
Tracks - Intertwine
Choreography: Jess Devereux in collaboration with Kelly Beneforti
Performer: Kelly Beneforti
Music: James Mangohig Costume: Ann Gibb

Duet.
Tridatu
Concept, choreography and performance: Desak Putu Warti and Jocelyn Tribe
Sound design: I Made Budalasia

Trio.
Guts - DANCE (a short homage)
Concept, choreography and performance: Madeleine Krenek, Ashleigh Musk and Frankie Snowdon
Sound design: Darcy Davis

Homebodies

May/June
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/homebodies-fresh-tracks-2020

We were due to present a season of new experimental works in the Darwin Fringe Festival, our annual Fresh Tracks Program. But due to Covid-19 the Fringe cancelled live performances instead opting to go online. Our agile animateur team quickly made a shift to engage 10 alumni of the Tracks Choreographic Program to create a project making solo works from home.

Provocations and intriguing movement scores became the nexus for the group within this time of physical distancing and became the impetus for dance-making at home. The project culminated in each choreographer working with Duane Preston (Tracks Production Manager and documenter) to film this uniquely Top End dance experiment. A four-minute edit of this film was shown at the Deck Chair Cinema as part of Tracks Fundraiser (October 18).

Conception and Delivery: Jess Devereux and Kelly Beneforti
Choreographer / Dancers: Alex Jordan, Bryn Wackett, CJ Fraser Bell, Jenelle Saunders, Jess Devereux, Kelly Beneforti, Kristi Renfrey, Kyle Walmsley, Maari Gray, Ricky Borg, Sheila Rose, Venaska Cheliah
Video: Duane Preston

FROM THE STUDIO

Space Time Studio Residency

November 2019 - March 2020
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/space-time-studio-residency-201920

Despite a rapidly changing situation around the Covid-19 health crisis, we were still able to come together with our Studio Residents for a sharing of their ideas and physical explorations to conclude the residency program for the 2019-2020 wet season. It felt particularly important to recognise the importance of artistic expression in light of world events, and to acknowledge the commitment to creative practice that the residents had demonstrated throughout their time in our studio. Audience was limited to staff.

Residents: Kyle Walmsley, Mim Ellen-Barwell, Tara Schmidt, Jenelle Saunders and Kate Mornane, Darryl Butler

Dead Singers Dance Society

January-November
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/dead-singers-dance-society-2020

The Dead Singers Dance Society delivered community connectivity during a difficult year. The four-week course (run four times during 2020) enabled participants to learn a fun and achievable dance routine celebrating the music of a legendary 'dearly departed' singer.

1. January/February - Michael Hutchins with classes live in the studio. Pop Up performance was at Nightcliff foreshore.
2. June- Aretha Franklin, was taught online through Zoom
3. July/ August - Bollywood Awakening - Sri Devi and Rishi Kapoor, sponsored by Darwin City Council, was taught outdoors to allow more participants with a Pop Up performed on the Nightcliff foreshore
4. November/December - CrazySexyCool - Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes.

DSDS Tutors: Kelly Beneforti, Jess Devereux, Venaska Cheliah, Jenelle Saunders, Madeleine Brown, Ricky Borg

Youth Choreographic Residency

September 28-October 9
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/youth-choreographic-residency

A Covid adaptation for the school holiday program Make A dance in A Week saw the development of a small Youth Choreographic Residency. An intensive week of learning was delivered to three local young NT dancers.

The Youth Residency was designed to expand dance versatility and vocabulary through daily master-classes introducing tasks to unlock creativity. Participants collaborated on group choreography and learnt the fundamentals to making solo choreography.
The program was supported by the Grey panthers Youth Development Fund and there was a small showing from the week with an audience made up of family and staff.

Course Devisers and Delivery: Madeleine Brown, Jordan Bretherton
Participants: Taylor Anderson, J. J. Banderjas and Sophia Hodges

Pivot(all)-Choreographic Development Program

Course: August /November
Studio Showings: November 14 – 15
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/pivotall-choreographic-program

By August we were able to run our Choreographic Development Program in the studio, adhering to strict Covid-19 guidelines. Since 2009 this 3-month, free, program has filled a gap in the performing arts sector in Darwin, where it is difficult to gain training and experience in the art of dance making.

The culmination of the Choreographic Development Program was a showing of short new works by the nine participants. The showings include artist talks hosted by program alumni. We opted for small audiences and more showing (six) in order to present Pivot(all) in a Covid safe environment.

Course devisers and Delivery: Kelly Beneforti, Jess Devereux
Choreographers: Ellen Hankin, Jessica Rabelo Amaral, Jordi Rust, Kate Mornane, Katy Moir, Sarah Reuben, Sean Pardy, Taylah Anderson, Thevi Chelliah

The Grey Panthers

February/December
Weekly dance classes for older adults in Darwin and Coomalie
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/2020-grey-panthers

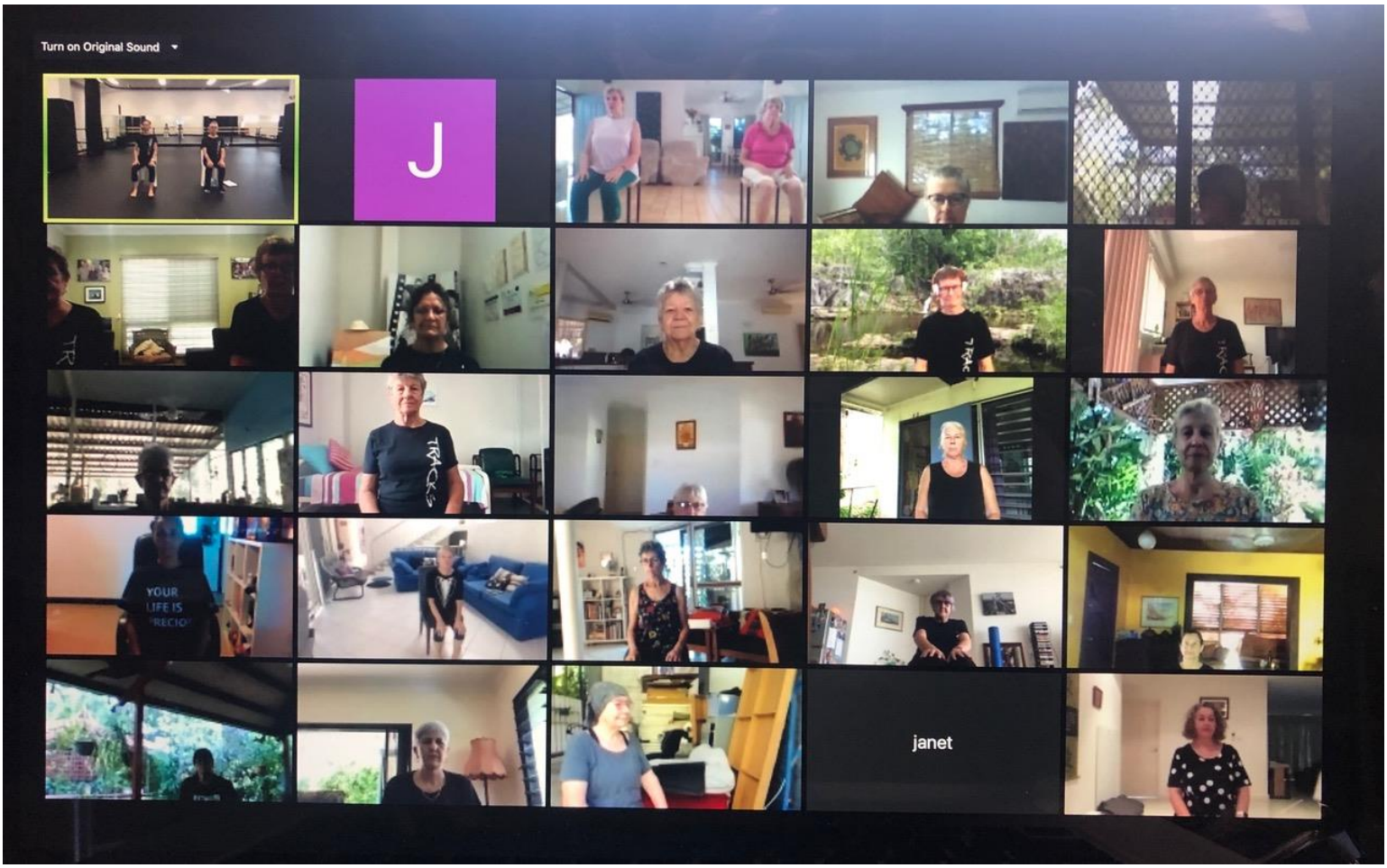
Once Covid-19 kicked in, this was the core group we wanted to maintain contact with. As a high-risk group, one where their weekly class was an important artistic and social event, it was imperative that we switched to online classes, complete with technical training for anyone that wanted it. This allowed us to reconnect with some previous Grey Panthers who were either unable to get to the studio, or had moved interstate.

Once regulations eased, we moved to limited numbers in the studio and jointly ran the class online and live. The Grey Panthers managed several performances throughout the year, especially in the regions. Which were: Coomalie Council of the Aging Luncheon, The Palmerston And Rural Seniors Month and the Coomalie NAIDOC Week Celebrations.

Darwin Tutors: David McMicken, Kelly Beneforti and Jess Devereux
Coomalie Tutors: Darryl Butler, and Ellen Hankin (Assistant)

Darwin Participants: Antonietta Vanzella, Barbara Chung, Barbara Pollock, Cherrian Eecan, Darryl Butler, Di Koser, Diane Lucas, Ellen Hankin, Francisca Kleinebeck, Jacqui Murray, Jan Hastings, Janet Farnell, Janine Sutter, Jenni Sanderson, Jo Parish, Judy McKerr, Julie Pudney, Lillian Mann, Marg Lee, Marge Duminski, Maria Vlastuin, Maxine Atkinson, Nikki Charlesworth-Canning, Noelene Trinne, Pamela Sims, Patricia O'Neill, Penny McIntyre, Renate Huble, Robert McDonough, Roslyn Henry, Sara Bagley, Susan Pattiselanno, Toni Vine-Bromley, Trish Greenfield, and Val Hristova.

Coomalie Participants: Nan Gillies, Susan Mornane, Jan Powick, Prue King, Maureen Roberts, Renate Hubel, Gail Flack, Pat Simmonds, Ellen Hankin, Denise Grecian-Wright, and Annette Haitana.



Dance Doctors

October 26-29
https://www.tracksdance.com.au/dance-doctors

It was with great anticipation that the Dance Doctors made a comeback as part of October Business Month. The Dance Doctors were first conceived as part of the Tracks 2018 project Tracktivation. On invitation from October Business Month, the team reopened their workplace and business consultation practice. Participants of the conference started each day with a healthy ten-minute prescription of dance. Each appointment was built around the theme of the day, ending in a fun routine that every delegate learned. Themes were;

- Hospitality, Tourism and Retail
- Construction, Trades, Property Development and Real Estate
- Arts, Community and Not for Profit
- Agribusiness, Aquaculture and Exports

Concept: David McMicken
Dancers/Doctors: Bryn Wackett, Madeleine Brown, Kelly Beneforti, and Jess Devereux

RESEARCH

Dance Body Design

Throughout the year

COVID changed the year's program and freed up space for Tracks Artistic Co Directors Tim Newth and David McMicken to work on the Milpirri Dance Body Design project (initially planned for 2021/22). In a similar vein to the Milpirri Banner Home Page project https://www.tracksdance.com.au/milpirri-banners-home-page, Tracks is archiving Milpirri dances performed in Lajamanu since 2005.

Dance Body Design will continue until 2023 through and Australian Research Council grant with the University of NSW. General public viewing of this work will only be available once the community has approved all the content.

Concept: Tim Newth, David McMicken, the people of Lajamanu

OPERATIONAL

Achievements

In 2020 we faced momentous upheaval, not only was our sector; the performing arts, experiencing unprecedented challenges due to Covid-19, we also lost 30% of operational funding through an unsuccessful application for multi-year funding from the Australia Council for the Arts, but what we did do was:

- Produce a media release 'Down But Not Out' which was widely recognised and respected in the national creative sector as a rounded and positive perspective of our new circumstance.
- Prepare and present a forward thinking, four-year strategy "Weathering the Storm" a road map to our Committee of Management about how we proposed to move forward, which was endorsed. This strategy has the employment of our core staff at its heart.
- Complete negotiations and sign a five-year Agreement with Newmont Tanami Mines for our Milpirri work in Lajamanu.
- Embark on our first major fundraising campaign, in partnership with Creative Partnerships Australia.
- Recruit and employ a core staff member to join the team.
- Co-presentation of the We3 NT Performing Arts Awards.
- Remembering Forwards. Tracks 30-year story mapped through the Explore web page https://www.tracksdance.com.au/landing/community-new.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOALS

GOAL 1. To create, produce and develop original movement based work that reflects culture.

(i) developing and encouraging expressions of identity and place;
(ii) exploring the relationship between dance and other forms of cultural expression;
(iii) working towards excellence in the movement arts with artists of traditional, Western and non-Western training in a professional context;
(iv) further developing artistic and cultural exchanges with Aboriginal communities.
Achieved through:

- The Artistic Program p.2-6

GOAL 2. Facilitate the development of dance and cultural activity in the Northern Territory.

Achieved through:

- Choreographic Program p.5
- Space Time Studio Residencies p.3
- Dead Singers Dance Society (DSDS) p.4

- Bollywood Awakening - A partnership with Darwin City Council to support Covid-19 safe participatory activities. This project harnessed the DSDS format to deliver a dance experience for Darwin participants that was an accessible, free, open-air dance experience with a Pop Up performance outcome on the Nightcliff foreshore.
- Youth Choreographic Residency p.4
- Grey Panthers classes p.5
- Dance Doctors p.6

GOAL 3. To develop the profile of Tracks within the Territory, nationally and internationally.

Achieved through:

Platform	Jan 2020	Dec 2020	2020 Target
Facebook	3,501	3,675	3,500
Twitter	966	968	300
Instagram	1,095	1,243	1,200
Newsletter	1,771	1,796	NA

Facebook

- Over the last 12 months our followers have increased by approx. 174 (average of 3 per week)
- Population of NT: 245,980 (median age 33.1), our followers = 1.5% of population
- 36% of followers are from Darwin, 1.4% from Alice Springs
- Over 50% of followers are aged between 25 and 54
- ⅓ of 2020 posts reached engagement of over 1% (over 1% engagement is considered good)
- Average referrals to website per post = 6.9
- In the last 12 months 10% of visitors to Tracks website have come from Facebook

Instagram

- Over the last 12 months followers have increased by 148 (approx. 2.6 per week)
- Most followers are females aged between 25 and 44
- 44% of followers are from Darwin
- In the last 12 months 0.68% of visitors to Tracks website have come direct from Instagram

E-newsletter

- Average Open Rate: 35% (peer comparison 33.8%)
- Average Click Rate: 2.83% (peer comparison 7%)
- Average unsubscribes per campaign: 6

Awards

- Winner of the 2019 Australian Dance award for Excellence in Community Dance for our 2018 In Your Blood

Presentations at conferences/forums

- Three presentations; Engage, October Business Month and VCA

GOAL 4. To have a healthy and responsible organisation that realises Tracks artistic and community goals.

Achieved through:

- The Tracks Committee of Management conducted six regular meeting and two special meeting
- The Trustees met two times
- Tracks core staff maintained weekly Tuesday staff meetings all year.
- During Covid-19 working from home (March 26 - May 8) Tracks continued with weekly meetings and implemented an additional daily 10@10. This was a ten-minute zoom meeting with all of the core and project staff at 10am. Each person gave a score out of ten of how they were feeling that day and what they were working on. This allowed us to keep a health check on the team and enabled us to feel focused in our working from home efforts.

Thank you to our Partners

Company Partners

Project Partners

Supporting Partners

Photo credits

Cover photo (LR) Kelly Beneforti and David McMicken - Photo Duane Preston.

Page 3 - A Year At A Glance (LR)
1) Pivot(all) Choreographic showing - Photo Duane Preston.
2) Bollywood Awakening - Photo Tim Newth.
3) Seasons of Skin and Bark Development - Photo Jess Devereux.
4) Milpirri Zoom Workshop - Photo Duane Preston.
5) Bollywood Awakening rehearsal - Photo Jess Devereux.
6) Performing Arts Award David McMicken - Photo Duane Preston.
7) Grey Panther Zoom class; David McMicken - Photo Duane Preston.
8) Bollywood Awakening; Maddy Brown, Jenelle Saunders, Venaska Cheliah, Ricky Borg – Photo Jess Devereux

Page 7- North of Centre; Kelly Beneforti - Photo Jess Devereux

Page 10 – Homebodies - Photo Jess Devereux

Page 13 – Grey Panther zoom class - Screenshot David McMicken

Page 17 – Dance Doctors; Bryn Wackett, Jess Devereux, Maddy Brown, Kelly Beneforti – Photo Duane Preston

Annual Report compiled by Adelaide Wood Company Director