



Annual Report

Prepared By :

David McMicken

Presented By :

TRACKS

(08) 8941 1410

admin@tracksdance.com.au

www.tracksdance.com.au

2023



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Acknowledgement



We acknowledge that we live and work on Larrakia Land, and give respect to those who provide us with a link to understanding and living on this rich and ancient Country. We rejoice in their Elders past and present and are excited by the emerging leaders.

We acknowledge their request that we tread lightly upon this Country.

We also acknowledge the lands of other First Nations people on which we work, especially the Warlpiri people of Lajamanu.

We give recognition to all who have sung their songs, danced their dances, and placed their designs on this land.

Letter from the Chair



As we reflect on the past year, Tracks Dance Company has strived ahead, focusing on our core values and producing new and exciting works. Our commitment to artistic excellence and community engagement has remained, and always has been, very important to us.

Sadly, we bid farewell to some cherished members of our team. Board member, Ken Conway, whose 25+ years of invaluable contributions will be sorely missed, and we are immensely grateful for his contribution to Tracks. As we are sure the rest of the community feels about Ken. Co-founder of Tracks and pioneer of the Arts in the Territory, Tim Newth, retired from Tracks at the end of 2023. Tim's leadership and contribution to productions cannot be justified by just words. His artistic excellence and engagement with the community make his impact far beyond the walls of Tracks. The Board is extremely grateful for Tim's contribution to the company and wishes him all the best in the future.

As we take the time to reflect on some sad departures, we will welcome a new face in 2024. Sean Pardy will join Tracks as a Company Director where he will work closely with Artistic Director, David McMicken, on all executive decisions. We are very excited to have Sean on the team and look forward to the future.

The Board is proud of all the members of our diverse and passionate team. Tracks reflects our community and the works we produce are for the community.

To all our trustees, Board members, staff, dancers, creators, mentors, and volunteers—your collective dedication and talent have been the cornerstone of Tracks' success for over 30 years. It's your unwavering support that has enabled us to remain relevant and impactful within our community, providing a platform for diverse voices to be heard and celebrated.

As we continue Tracks' journey, I am filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who has contributed to our shared mission. Together, let's continue to dance boldly into the future!

Max Dewa Stretton
Chairperson

Governance



Core Staff

Co-Artistic Director
David McMicken

Co-Artistic Director
Tim Newth

Artistic Associate
Jess Devereux

Creative Producer
Britt Guy

Dance Animateurs
Kelly Beneforti
Steph Spillett

Production Manager
Duane Preston

Administrator
Debbie Jane Micairan

Bookkeeper
Donna Mearns, It Figures

Committee

Chair
David Taylor/ Max Dewa Stretton

Treasurer
Glenn Bernardin

Public Officer
Lachlan Spargo Peattie

Ordinary Committee Members

Andrea Wicking
David Taylor
Ken Conway
Rachael Wallis
Anna Lindsay
Venaska Cheliah

Ex-Officio:
David McMicken

Trustees:
Maari Gray
Michael Grant

Our Vision & Mission

To give voice to Territory culture and to develop contemporary cultural expression through the movement arts in the Northern Territory.



Our Values

Respect for People

our stories, truths and diverse heritage

Celebration of Place

Darwin with the deserts of Central Australia to the south and the tropics of South East Asia to the north

Evocation of Spirit

the vitality of living culture enriched by traditional and contemporary life



2023 At a Glance



Milpirri Symposium



Milpirri Sensorium



New Light | Archie 100



Fresh Tracks



Choreolab 101: Explore



Choreolab 102: Extend



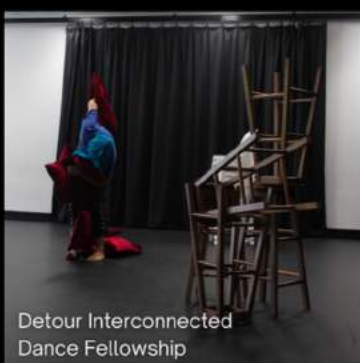
Generating Divergence:
Ageing into the Unknown



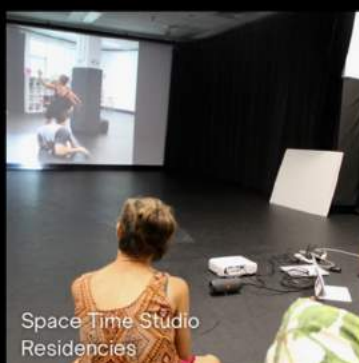
Wuyal Sugarbag Man



Cloud Split
Development



Detour Interconnected
Dance Fellowship



Space Time Studio
Residencies



Practice Practise



Grey Panthers



Dead Singers
Dance Society



Animateurs in the
Community

Finances at a Glance

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Revenue	3	690,550	561,389
Total Income		690,550	561,389
Expenditures			
Direct program costs		(154,234)	(61,990)
Non-direct program costs		(244,754)	(238,412)
Salaries, wages and fees		(443,758)	(404,766)
Total Expenditures		(842,746)	(705,168)
Loss for the year	4	(152,196)	(143,779)

Tracks continued to incur operating deficits funded from reserves to maintain operations in 2023. Tracks appears to be turning the corner increasing revenue by 23% in 2023. This reflects the sourcing of additional funding, offset by increased expenses to earn that revenue as expenses increased by 20%. The 2023 operating loss saw net assets decline by 17% to \$718K.

The decline in Tracks net assets relates to the cessation of Commonwealth funding in 2022. The company will rely on continued support from the NT Government and the return of Commonwealth funding to facilitate operational surpluses and halt further declines in its reserves into the future.

Tracks continues to maintain a healthy level of reserves to fund its short-term obligations with a current ratio of 4, meaning it holds 4 times more in liquid assets than its short term obligations.



Glenn Bernardin, Tracks Treasurer



Artistic Report

Igniting passion, connecting people, providing safe cultural spaces for creativity to thrive, and creating local dance stories that will remain with people over a lifetime; this is Tracks. 2023 saw us continuing to operate in a reduced funding environment. Despite this, we committed to using our resources, and retained earnings, to continue to employ our staff as core artists to realise the 2023 Artistic Program. We are incredibly proud of our staff and their capacity to succeed in some very challenging circumstances.

Despite the feeling of COVID-19 being behind us for many people, we were in a world of continuing uncertainty and shifts. Our program allowed multiple artistic touchpoints with minimal disruptions. New Light was a series of solos (and one duet) works in eight sites around the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory - a very successful partnership and an enriching artist talk. Milpirri Sensorium (Darwin Festival) brought Lajamanu Milpirri culture to Darwin for the first time and allowed an exchange with a local Larrakia artist. The symposium also gave two days of cultural knowledge sharing and academic research.

With Generating Divergence we delved into the complexities of dance and the ageing body with guest artist Helen Herbertson and local dancers over 60, setting the groundwork for future work. Wuyal Sugarbag Man continued the relationship with Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala artists, and with the Grey Panthers in Darwin and Coomalie.

Our development program was in full swing with Choreolab 101- Explore, and a new program Choreolab 102 - Extend. Fresh Tracks for the Darwin Fringe Festival saw four local developing choreographers explore some experimental dance work, and Cloud Split development had local creatives from diverse forms and backgrounds exploring ideas for our 2024 Darwin Festival Show. Three studio residents explored their practice, and we also hosted National dance artist Jenn Ma for the Detour Interconnected Dance Fellowship where she spent two weeks in residence at five different dance companies across Australia - Tracks, Guts, Dancenorth, Tasdance, and Dance Makers Collective.

Much fun was had throughout the year in our Participation Program with classes held for the Grey Panthers seniors in Darwin and Coomalie, the Dead Singers Dance Society, and work in schools and with our Youth program.

2023 Artistic Program

New Works

"New Light enhanced the whole museum experience for me. It made it 3D, particularly in the boat area - I didn't even know that existed. This was a voyage of discovery in so many ways. I love the site-specific work and seeing the museum in a completely different light!"

- Maari Gray





"I loved the exploration, beautifully guided through the space and then all of the different works that really responded to the different locations."
- Kate Fell

New Light | Archie 100

Statistics:

8 Choreographers, 8 new works
9 performers,
8 sites.
3 shows + 1 dress rehearsal
157 audience (100% capacity), plus 40 dress rehearsal
3 Public rehearsals seen by 385 people
1 Artist talk - 45 attendees
MAGNT support

<https://tracksdance.com.au/new-light-archie-100>

A partnership with the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT)

When: Residency in MAGNT 15 May - 25 June 2023

Performance Season: Thursday, 22 June (Opening) - Saturday, June 24 - 6pm

Artist Talk: Choreographers and MAGNT Curator Bryony Nainby Sat June 17th 2023

Tracks presented a choreographic response to 100 years of Australian portraiture: the Archies 100. A bold and collaborative partnership, New Light enlivened inside and outside spaces in and around the gallery precinct. 9 Northern Territory choreographers featured in 8 short works in response to the Archies 100 exhibition. Dance artists were of diverse ages, trainings, and cultural backgrounds.

Enlivening tradition for an intercultural twenty-first-century future"
- Steve Wanta Jampijinpa Patrick, Milpirri Creative Director

Milpirri Sensorium

Statistics:

5 nights
15 shows
924 Audience
6 Warlpiri Elders
Darwin Festival Support

<https://tracksdance.com.au/milpirri-symposium-2023>

Darwin Waterfront, Garramilla (Darwin)
August 13 -17 - Darwin Festival (3 shows per night)
Free Event.
Entry from Goyder Park, Anchorage Court, Darwin Waterfront

On request from Creative Director Wanta Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, for the first time off-country, the Sensorium brought Milpirri from Lajamanu, on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert, onto the saltwater country of the Larrakia.

A stunning outdoor venue, twenty-seven beautifully colour-coded Milpirri banners bring to life Warlpiri kinship (Warlajja) relationships. Supported by an evocative bilingual soundtrack, alongside rarely-seen performance footage. Milpirri links the energy of youth and the wisdom of the old, gaining a better understanding of Western and Warlpiri ways of learning.

Creative Team

Sensorium Concept: Tim Newth and David McMicken
Creative Director: (Milpirri): Wanta Steve Jampijinpa Patrick
Artistic Directors (Milpirri): Tim Newth and David McMicken
Warlpiri Cultural Adviser: Jerry Jangala Patrick, Myra Nungarrayi Herbert (Patrick),
Yawulyu singers and dancers: Myra Nungarrayi Herbert, Agnes Napanangka Donnelly, Judy Napanangardi Martin, Miranda Napurrula Donnelly, Ursula Napanangardi Marks, Kitty Napanangka Simon, Audrey Nakamarra Baker
Sensorium Video Editor: Duane Preston
Larrakia Artist - Damibilla (Barramundi) painted designs: Mikaela Lee



Milpirri Symposium

Statistics:

2 Days
4 sessions
6 Warlpiri Elders
20 Attendees
Darwin Festival Support

<https://tracksdance.com.au/milpirri-sensorium>

Tracks Dance Studio
15 and 16 August 2023

The Milpirri Symposium was presented by Lajamanu community members and Tracks Dance alongside the Milpirri Sensorium. The two-day, 4 session Symposium invited audience participation in workshops and discussions on the history of the northern Warlpiri biennale celebration Milpirri. The Symposium was attended by local, national and international guests, community members from Lajamanu and Yuendumu, and supported by researchers Professor Jennifer Biddle and Dr Sudipta Dowsett (University of New South Wales).

Research background for this event is supported in part by the Australian Government through the Australian Research Council Linkage Projects (LP190100552) and UNSW.

Tuesday 15th - Sharing Warlpiri Knowledge Across Generations

How does Milpirri combine the old and the new? How has Warlpiri people's traditional practice transformed into hip-hop and contemporary song and dance? The audience saw Milpirri Yawulyu dances and heard the stories behind them from the Warlpiri Elders present in the room.

Lajamanu Traditional Owners: Wanta Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, Myra Nungarrayi Herbert (Patrick), Agnes Napanangka Donnelly, Judy Napangardi Martin, Miranda Napurrula Donnelly, Ursula Napangardi Marks, Kitty Napanangka Simon

Wednesday 16th - Kinship, Belonging, Relationships

The basis of Milpirri is Warlpiri kinship. How does Milpirri use colour to represent kinship, vitality and belonging through design, staging and performance? Wanta Steve Patrick Jampijinpa conducted this workshop, followed by facilitated conversations between Jampijinpa and Artistic Directors Tim Newth and David McMicken.

2023 Artistic Program

Developing Professional Artistic Practise

A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a yellow patterned sleeveless dress, is captured in a side profile, performing a movement exercise. Her right hand is raised, palm facing forward, with fingers slightly spread. In the background, other participants are visible, some with their hands raised, suggesting a group class or rehearsal. The lighting is warm and focused on the participants.

"You are much more aware of the physical space you take up. How you choose to move is very immediate so bringing that into conscious awareness is definitely a wow moment. It's felt in your own body but also those surrounding you."

- Serina Pech



Fresh Tracks

Statistics:

2 shows
4 choreographers
7 performers
105 Audience
Fringe Festival Support

<https://tracksdance.com.au/fresh-tracks-2023>

Brown's Mart Theatre Garramilla Darwin
Sunday 23 July 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm

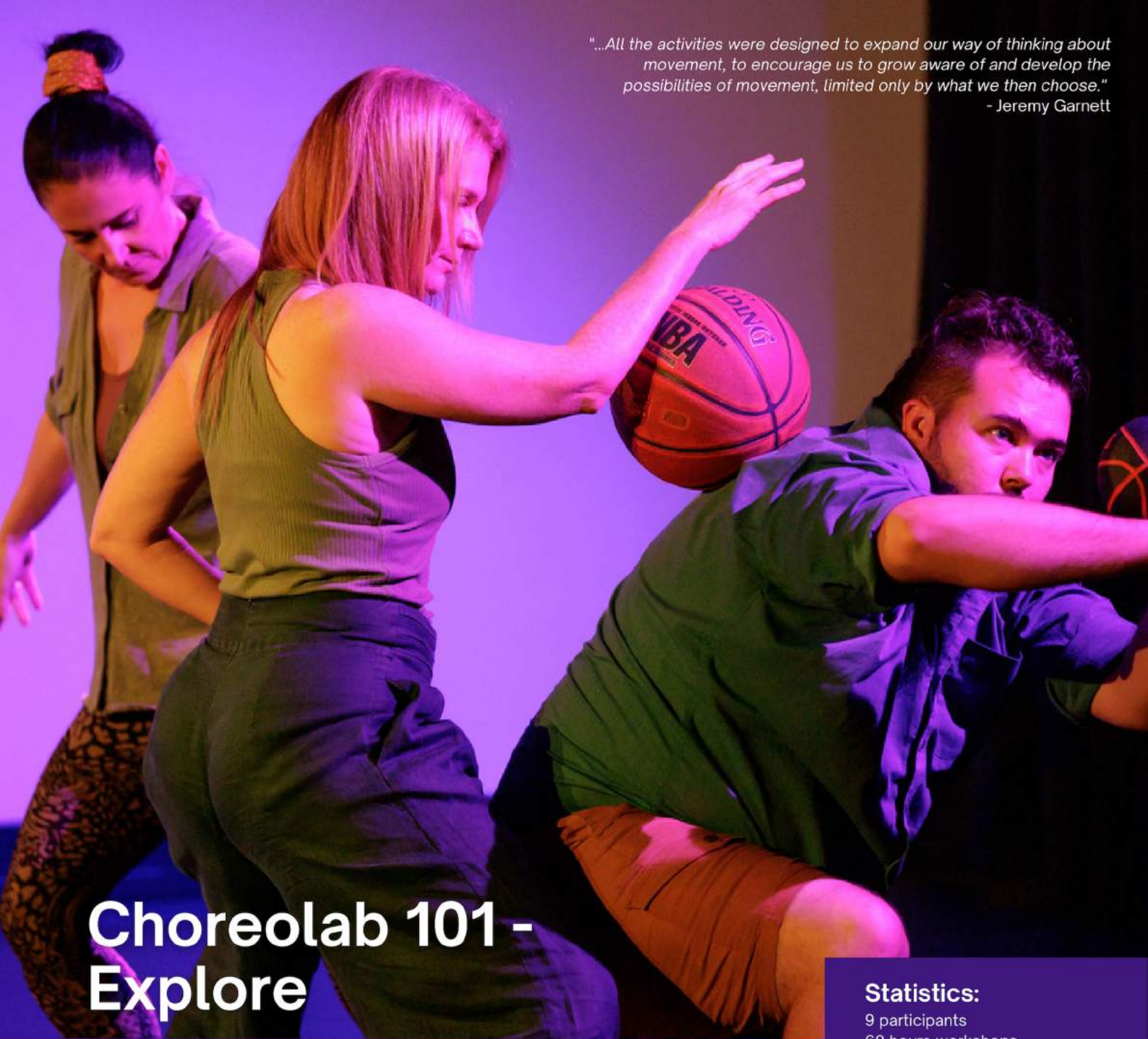
Fresh Tracks offers a meeting place and performance platform for artists with diverse styles, stories and concepts in choreography. Local, independent dance-makers were invited to each create a short-form, experimental work and share insight into their creative process with Darwin audiences through artist talks. Fresh Tracks is core to our Development Program at Tracks Dance. It supports artists to pursue their ideas, explore their unique physical languages, and have dedicated time to nurture their choreographic practice.

Curator: Kelly Beneforti

Works:

Ensnared. Choreographer - Tara Schmidt. Performed by Tara Schmidt and Maari Gray
Embodied Euphonics: exploring ideas of transformation. Choreographer - Jenelle Saunders.
Performed by Jenelle and Spillett
Red Thread of Fate. Choreographer - Serina Pech. Performed by Serina and Jess Devereux
Air (1-19-18. Chest Knee Neck). Choreographed and Performed by Flynn

"...All the activities were designed to expand our way of thinking about movement, to encourage us to grow aware of and develop the possibilities of movement, limited only by what we then choose."
- Jeremy Garnett

A photograph of three people in a dynamic, expressive pose. A woman in the center, wearing a green tank top and dark pants, is reaching out with her right arm towards a basketball. To her right, a man in a blue shirt and orange shorts is also reaching out, his body angled towards the woman. In the background, another woman in a green shirt and patterned pants is visible. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a dramatic and artistic atmosphere.

Choreolab 101 - Explore

<https://tracksdance.com.au/choreolab-101-explore>

Statistics:

9 participants
60 hours workshops
2 shows
52 Audience (capacity 60)

Workshop Program: 8th March - 14th May
Public Showings: Wednesday, May 17th, 2023

A ten-week professional development opportunity for emerging movement artists and makers to explore the mechanics and creative scope of choreography in an artistically rich environment. A collaborative approach is made to the facilitation of the course. This year there are 2 core facilitators and a variety of guest facilitators. The program caters for people with some level of experience in dance/movement (in any style) or with a current artistic practice, and a curiosity about the choreographic craft.

Creative Team

Program Facilitators: Steph Spillett and Kelly Beneforti

2023 Participating Artists: Jennie Attrill, Marilynne N Kirshbaum, Flynn, Jeremy Garnett, Karen Hawkes, Anita Lakatos, Severine Meunier, Serina Pech, Terra Suppiah



Choreolab 102 - Extend

Statistics:

11 participants
25 Contact Hours

<https://tracksdance.com.au/choreolab-102-extend>

Challenging and extending the suite of learning opportunities in our Development Program, the course, new in 2023, was devised and led by Jess Devereux. A 10-week series offering a unique, fun and specialised environment for people to deepen their choreographic and movement interests, collaborative skills and enjoy creative conversations.

Creative Team

Program Facilitator: Jess Devereux

Guest Facilitators: David McMicken, Steph Spillett

Participating Artists: Anita Afford, Darryl Butler, Venaska Cheliah, Flynn, Katy Moir, Kate Mornane, Jenelle Saunders, Tara Schmidt, Jedda Scott, Kate Boston Smith, Crystal Thomas

Reflections

"Everything about Tracks and its staff is supportive. The collaborative ethos and practical application, the gentle guidance and the invitations to take up opportunities or see things in a different way always leave me in awe." - Participant

"The opportunity to share time with other choreographers and undertake spontaneous choreographic tasks....Stepping off the familiar, not really knowing what will emerge until you do it is uncomfortable but incredibly stimulating to creative juices." - Participant



Generating Divergence - Ageing into the Unknown

<https://tracksdance.com.au/choreolab-102-extend>

Development 25th September - 20 October
Live Stream artist talk - The Conversation - October 19th
Supported by the Australia Council for the Arts

'What is a burgeoning contemporary dance practice offered in the future, that only comes with age?' In a month-long research and development residency, Helen Herbertson, 2022 recipient of the Creative Australia (previously Australia Council For The Arts) Award for Dance, joined Tracks as a guest collaborator and provocateur for a deep-dive exploration into dance in the Ageing Body for older adult professional dancers.

The dancers came from an exciting mixture of cultural differences and diverse dance training histories - Modern Dance, Contemporary, Ballet, Indigenous, and Balinese. Together, they brought over 350 years of lived dance experience into the studio. The development concluded with 'The Conversation': a free interactive Q & A live-streamed to peers across Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain.

Creative Team

Artists: Helen Herbertson, David McMicken, Rachael Wallis, Desak Putu Warti, Maari Gray

Dance dramaturg: Jess Devereux

Guest speaker on the Conversation panel: John Salisbury

Production Manager/Technical Adviser: Duane Preston

Statistics:

- 4 week Australia Council funded project
- 5 local participants and 2 interstate
- 3 day artist retreat
- 2 weeks full-time for everyone (72 hrs)
- 2 weeks full time with 4
- 5 workshops with Grey Panthers (Coomalie and Darwin)
- 3 additional choreographic workshops with select Grey Panthers
- 1 live stream artist talk - The Conversation (20 audience in studio, 890 Facebook, 109 Zoom) Darwin, National, International reach



Wuyal Sugarbag Man

<https://tracksdance.com.au/wuyal-sugarbag-man>

Nhulunbuy / Yirrkala/ Garramilla Darwin / Coomalie Region

Miku Performing Arts (Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala) and Tracks continue exploring this cross-cultural project with older adults in remote, rural and regional NT communities. Building on phase 1 of the development 'Dhangu Walu - In the Now' (2022), the team explored the themes of Wuyal (the ancestral Sugarbag Man) to develop shared choreography, dance, music and video stories as a way of generating engagement, sharing knowledge and connecting older adults.

This project was underpinned by months of dance classes and workshops with older adults and Elders in Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala, Darwin and Batchelor. Connecting people through an understanding that culture is a valuable community resource.

Artistic Team

David McMicken, Rachael Wallis, Banula Marika, Janet Munyarryun, Jess Devereux

Participants: Dancers in Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala, and The Grey Panthers in Darwin & Coomalie

Statistics:

- 4 core Artists (3 Indigenous/Remote)
- Exchange between 34 communities (Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala, Darwin, Coomalie)
- 1 Yolŋu gesture dance created
- 1 Teaching video made
- 1 worksheet created
- 1 new work (The Wonder of You) Coomalie
- 40 weekly Zoom Meetings
- 2 workshops in Yirrkala
- 2 workshops Coomalie
- 4 workshops Darwin
- 1 Wuyal Cycle dance - New Light Darwin MAGNT - Rachael and Banula

Cloud Split Development



Statistics:

3 weeks development
9 artists + documenter

<https://tracksdance.com.au/wuyal-sugarbag-man>

Tracks Dance Studio, Darwin Gulumerrdjini, Larrakia Country
2023 Oct / Nov - In Development for a 2024 season

An exploration of cloudy ideas led by Jess Devereux in conversation and collaboration with Britt Guy. An exploration into fields of movement improvisation in varied-sized groups and languid conversations, arriving at a curiosity about the physical potential of unpredictable phenomena and the relationship between being reflective and projective... in dance, in life and in nature.

A core collective of interdisciplinary artists undertook intensives to inform the project, through soft sharing of their various practices to start to imagine a sound and visual landscape to support future work.

“We imagined clouds, then swallowed them. Breathed them, conducted and channelled them in our hands. We found new pulses in repetitive movements, hovered amongst each other. Wrote poetry, stretched our bodies with three-dimensional awareness, tuned in, tuned out. Awakened and remembered places while moving, responded to offers as schools of fish in aerial oceans, shared movement in close proximity, cloudscaped, splitting energy, made waves between people, and, found ruptures within formlessness.” J. Devereux

Creative team

Concept: Jess Devereux

Creative Producer: Britt Guy

Artist Collective: Kelly Beneforti, James Mangohig, Britt Guy, Mikaela Lee Earnshaw, Matty van Roden, Spillet, Jess Devereux

Dance participants/researchers: Jenelle Saunders, Maari Gray, Tara Schmidt, Spillet, Kate Boston Smith, Flynn, Shenagh Gamble, Serina Pech, Crystal Thomas, Kate Mornane, Anokai Susi, Alex Jordan, Kelly Beneforti



Detour Interconnected Dance Fellowship

<https://tracksdance.com.au/detour-interconnected-dance-fellowship-0>

Garramilla Darwin
12-26th August 2023

Five leading Australian dance companies hosted an independent dance artist for a 15-week interconnected paid residency. Detour 2023 was supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

The five companies hosting the residency are Tracks (Larrakia Country NT), Dance Makers Collective (Darug Country NSW), Dancenorth (Gurambilbarra & Yunbenun Country QLD), GUTS (Arrernte Country NT) and Tasdance (Lutruwita Country TAS).

Jennifer Ma, a Naarm (Melbourne) based Taiwanese-Australian dancer, choreographer and producer, was selected from over 75 applications. Jenn spent 2 weeks with each company, engaging with local communities with no explicit 'outcome' in mind; to free the artist to develop in the context of our unique environs.

In Darwin, Jenn undertook a Studio Residency, attended Milpirri Sensorium, and Milpirri Symposium, offered a movement workshop to Tracks core creatives, participated in the 'Industry Connect' program by Darwin Festival, participated in Grey Panthers, visited Litchfield and shared her solo process /showing with a small invited audience, with music provided by James Mangohig.

Community Connectors: Jess Devereux, Kelly Beneforti, Steph Spillett



Space Time Studio Residencies

Statistics:

3 residents

13 additional participants

<https://tracksdance.com.au/studio-residencies-4>

Tracks Dance Studio, Harbour View Plaza, Darwin
Throughout the year. Curated through Application

Studio Residencies provided local emerging and independent dance artists with access to development time in Tracks studio, and mentorship from the Tracks staff during Wet Season (Nov-Feb), with a Sharing at the conclusion. We have two types of residencies:

‘Blue Sky’ Research’ for open-ended creative practice

‘Creative Development’ for developing a new project idea

2022-2023 Space Time Studio Residents

Jedda Scott

An exploration of 2 creative notions: NT-based queer-identified movers and the experimental sound art of NT-based queer noise artist Neha Spellfish.

Venaska Cheliah

Having just explored the nine Rasas in Indian Classic Dance through Fresh Tracks 2022 Venaska was interested in exploring other aspects of the prescriptive form in ways that are not traditional, and continue working with dancer Ruttiya McElroy."

Kate Mornane

Continuing her exploration of identity / multiple selves themes, Kate filmed herself, her mother, and her daughter - 3 generations a combination of reflections of past and future; of connections held between generations. "What we pass on and what we change in response to our past, and the beautiful image of my daughter being my womb when I was in my mother's."

**Statistics:**

82 studio hours
2 guest artists (facilitating)
3 guest artists (participating)

Practice Practise

Weekly company class for dance artists to regularly flex their artistic practice.

Shared facilitation by Tracks Dance staff and Guests: Jen Ma, Helen Herbertson.

2023 Artistic Program Participation





Grey Panthers over 60's dance troupe and classes

Statistics:

6 sessions 1 hour - Choreographic
Development/ Improvisation
94 classes (164 Hours)
4 public performances (Fred's Pass
Show, Seabreeze festival, Anticancer
Council Biggest Morning Tea,
Palmerston and Rural Seniors Month
Closing Ceremony)

<https://tracksdance.com.au/grey-panthers-2023>

Darwin: Tracks Dance Studio, Harbour View Plaza, Darwin City. Fridays throughout year
Coomalie: Litchfield Tavern, Batchelor. Wednesdays throughout the year

At Tracks, we believe in dance as a whole-of-life activity and the Grey Panthers are a prime example of this. Arguably the longest continually running seniors community dance group in Australia, the group gathers every Friday morning February-December. As regular performers on the Darwin and surrounding region's calendar, the group performs at charitable events and Senior-specific gatherings, and other community events.

In 2023, both chapters of the Grey Panthers were involved in Wuyal - Sugarbag Man project, sharing dancing with Miku Performing Arts (Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala) Rachael Wallis and Yirrkala Elders Janet Munyarryun and Banula Marika.

Darwin classes are held each Friday morning at the Tracks Studio. Coomalie classes are held each Wednesday morning in Batchelor.

Program Leaders

Darwin: David McMicken with guests

Batchelor: Darryl Butler, and Ellen Hankin (Assistant)

"Being part of the Dead Singers Dance Society is a hoot! It's a fun and enjoyable way to learn some dance moves in a sociable, open and welcoming environment while also paying tribute to iconic music stars who've sadly left us." - Henry Parham (Society Member)

Dead Singers Dance Society

<https://tracksdance.com.au/dead-singers-dance-society-2023>

Tracks Dance Studio, Harbour View Plaza, Darwin

The ever-popular "DSDS" is a 4-week dance course where participants learn a fun routine that celebrates the music of a legendary, dearly departed singer. Open to all, Society Meetings (dance classes) are held in an inclusive and supportive dance space led by Tracks' experienced teachers. At the end of the course, there were optional opportunities to perform publicly.

Statistics:

16 classes
16 hours
4 performances
2324 audience

DSDS #1 Prince

8 Feb - 1 March

Facilitators: Kelly Beneforti

40 Society members

Pop Up Performance: International Women's Day rally, pre and post-march
Saturday March 4

Performers: Natina Demetriou, Ron Greaves, Eunice de Ramos, Jenelle Saunders, Anita Lakatos, Gabe Martin, Flynn, Thevi Chelliah, Natalie Kew, Kelly Beneforti

DSDS #2 John Lennon

May 4 - 25

Facilitator: Jenelle Saunders

17 Society Members

Pop Up Performance: Sat 27th May at Parap Market

Performers: Mandy Trueman, Flynn, Natalie Kew, Jenni Sanderson, Jenelle Saunders

DSDS #3 Olivia Newton-John

September 6 - 27

Facilitator: Kelly Beneforti

21 Society Members

Pop Up Performance: Cancer Council NT Fundraiser at Deckchair Cinema (Grease) - Sunday 15th October

Performers: Alex Kersemakers, Natina Demetriou, Jenni Sanderson, Flynn, Anika Oling, Emma Degniam, Anita Lakatos, Severine Meunier, Heather Docker, Amanda Ah Toy, Kelly Beneforti

DSDS #4 Tina Turner

November 8 - 29

Facilitators: Kelly Beneforti and Jenelle Saunders

When: Every Wednesday 5.30 - 6.45pm

38 Society Members

Pop Up Performance:

Kitty Bang Christmas Cabaret at Railway Club
Saturday 9th December

Performers: Mandy Trueman, Natalie Kew, Anita Lakatos, Anika Oling, Amanda Ah Toy, Marilynne Kirshbaum, Cecile Schnitzler, Erica Lu, Jenelle Saunders, Jennie Attrill, Kelly Beneforti



2023 Artistic Program

Animateurs in the
Community





<https://tracksdance.com.au/animateurs-community>

Workshops / Mentoring / Performances
Darwin and surrounds
Throughout the year

Animateuring is at the heart of our work. It involves nurturing and developing creative relationships with the community, where our Animateurs inspire and respond to community needs and invitations while upskilling individuals and groups. This approach brings new ideas and relationships into the Tracks family. Our team creates visibility through appearances, interventions and pop-ups when needs arise, working with diverse communities and age groups. As a fundamental aspect of our work, all Tracks core artists operate in this field.

Statistics:

26 youth workshops
492 participants
Tracks Studio
Casuarina Senior College
Dripstone Middle School
Essington College
The Shak youth drop-in centre
Sanderson Middle school
Milkwood Primary

Research, Development, Legacy and Archives





Sharing Our Stories
Public Storytelling / Academic Research
Darwin and Lajamanu - National and International
Throughout the year

Over thirty years of experience in creating dance in the Northern Territory has built up a repository of stories, relationships, experience and knowledge. Sharing Our Stories brings Tracks knowledge and archives to life, making them accessible to future generations.

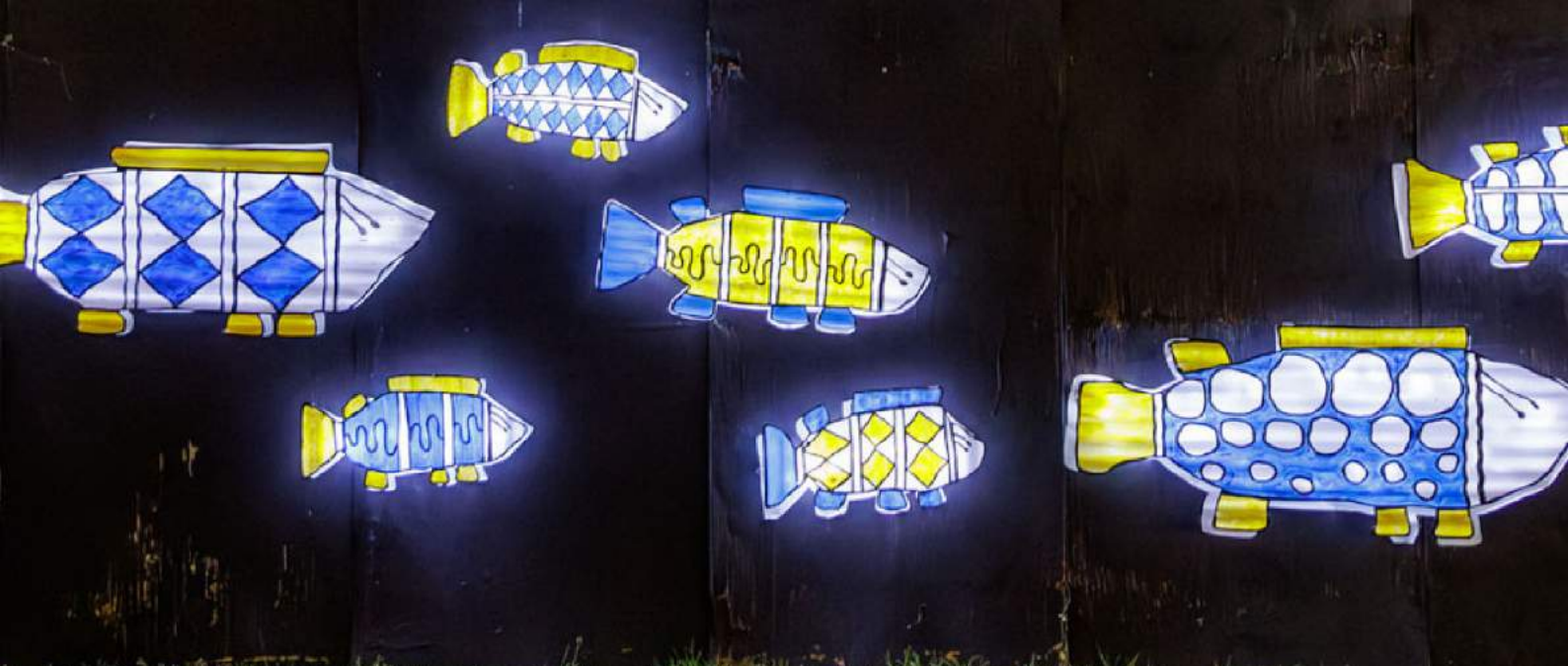
Public forums will interrogate our Arts Practice, and add to the Northern Territory dance history. Where feasible we will look to other ways of having these seen/viewed - eg live streaming, podcasting, recording and web paging.

Two Artists' talks were connected to our program. One was attached to New Light and was curated by Head Curator Bryony Nainby at the Museum and Art Gallery of NT. The other was live-streamed internationally and was attached to Generating Divergence.

Activated through academia, Tracks is currently being researched through two Universities: ARC research grant with the University of New South Wales (Milpirri/Tracks knowledge) Dr Jennifer Biddle, Dr Sudipta Dowsett, Dr Miles Holmes, Wanta Steve Jampijinpa Patrick and David research working towards a Milpirri research book, as relevant to Australia and beyond.

The University of Auckland - Professor Nicholas Rowe, working towards the publication of a book drawing on our years of alternative dance practice.

Tracks package areas of our knowledge as the basis for future resources, and education and digital knowledge kits. Specialist areas include working with community dance and the older adult, and shared Warlpiri knowledge from Lajamanu.



Report against goals as stated in the Tracks Constitution

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:

- New Light - Archies 100 - 8 choreographers - 8 new short works based on place and Archies visual arts thematic material. Choreographers of diverse ages and backgrounds, including Rachael Wallis and Banula Marika (Yirrkala)
- Fresh Tracks: 4 choreographers - 4 new works
- Milirri Sensorium: Warlpirri dance and visual arts

Goal 2: Facilitate the development of dance and cultural activity in the Northern Territory

Achieved through:

- Choreolab 101 - Explore - 9 participants - 10-week course
- Choreolab 102 - Extend - 11 participants - 10-week course
- Wuyal Sugarbag Man development
- Cloud Split Development
- Dead Singers Dance Society - 4 short courses with performance opportunities
- Grey Panthers - 2 classes per week X 42 weeks - Darwin and Coomalie

Goal 3: To develop the profile of Tracks within the Territory, Nationally and Internationally

Achieved through:

- Performance: New Light, Fresh Tracks, Dead Singers Dance Society, grey Panthers Artists Talks (New Light, Generating Divergence)
- Live Stream (International - Generating Divergence)
- University of New South Wales Arc Linkage research grant and presentations
- Website
- Documentation (Photos & Videos)
- Having a year-round active social media presence (more engagement)
- Articles/ Media
- EDM's
- Performances
- ABC Radio Interviews
- Advertising and editorials

Goal 4: To have a healthy and responsible organisation that realises Tracks artist and community goals

Health:

- Company Health - Annual Staff Check-in
- W&HS Compliance
- COVID-19
- Policy & Procedures - maintaining and reviewing, updating and maintaining as laws change
- Staff & Company Development Sessions - Spills to INSIGHT in November / Duane and Jess Digital Transformations / Joanna Bell, Ana Goat and Britt Guy - Succession action plan
- Fundraising
- Donations
- Staffing - Adequate and well-trained staff / Preventing burn-out
- Positive and safe workplace environment

Responsible:

- Grants submitted
- Board meetings
- Trustees Meeting
- Preparation for Arts NT multiyear funding 2025-9
- Preparation for Creative Australia Multiyear funding - 2025-8
- WHS: Test and tag
- Insurances
- Contracts
- Compliance and Governance
- Finances
- Maintain reserves above 20% of turnover (2023 approximately 100%)

Thank You

Company Partners



Project Partners



Supporting Partners



Photo Credits

Front cover - Fresh Tracks 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Index - New Light | Archie 100 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 1. Acknowledgement - Milpirri Sensorium 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

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Pg 3. Governance - Staff photo 2023. Photography by Duane Preston

Pg 4. Our Vision & Mission - New Light | Archie 100 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 4. Our Values - Fresh Tracks 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 7. Artistic Report - Cloud Split Development 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 8. 2023 Artistic Program New Works - New Light | Archie 100 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

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Pg 12. Choreolab Showing. Choreolab 101 - Explore 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

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Pg 15. Choreolab Intensive. Choreolab 102 - Extend 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 16. Generating Divergence: The Conversation Live Stream in the Tracks Dance Studio. Generating Divergence: Ageing into the Unknown 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 17. Wuyal Sugarbag Man 2023. Photograph by Richard Mann

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Pg 19. Jenn Ma Studio Showing. Detour Interconnected Dance Fellowship 2023. Photograph by Jess Devereux

Pg 20. Studio sharing. Space Time Studio Residencies 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 21. Choreolab Intensive (2023). Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 22. 2023 Artistic Program Participation - Grey Panthers at Seabreeze Festival. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 23. Grey Panthers with Sydney Dance Company. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 24. Dead Singers Dance Society Prince pop-up performance at International Women's Day 2023. Photograph by George F. Photography.

Pg 25. Dead Singers Dance Society Olivia Newton-John pop-up performance at Deckchair Cinema 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 26 - 27. Youth Dance Leaders 2024. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 28. Milpirri Sensorium 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston

Pg 29. Interviewing Wanta Steve Jampijinpa Patrick in Lajamanu, 2023. Photograph by Mikaela Lee

Pg 30. Milpirri Sensorium 2023. Photograph by Duane Preston