TRACKS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

We acknowledge

We acknowledge that we are on Larrakia Land, and give respect to elders' past, present and emerging who provide us with a link to understanding and living on this rich and ancient Country.

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

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

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2021 was yet another successful year for Tracks Dance Company despite the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of our multi-year funding from the Australia Council of the Arts. We completed our first major fundraising campaign supported by Creative Partnerships Australia through their Plus 1 program and surpassed our goal. These funds were then reinvested directly into our New Works, Seasons of Skin and Bark and Milpirri Yinapaka, paying the wages of independent artists and allied creative industry workers.
We continued to deliver high-calibre development programs for independent artists throughout the year. The Space Time Studio Residency saw 4 choreographers use this program to develop their practice and work, 16 artists participated in our annual Choreographic Program and 5 choreographers had the opportunity to present new and original choreographic works through Fresh Tracks.

Regardless of the constant challenges with the pandemic, restrictions, lockouts, lockdowns and mandates, Tracks Dance Company maintained our connections with the community through our Grey Panthers classes, our Dead Singers Dance Society courses and our school holiday programs. Whilst we were unable to perform the closing night of our Darwin Festival Show, Seasons of Skin and Bark, we still had a sold-out season with amazing support from the community. The Tracks staff continuously awe me with their adaptable nature and ability to forward plan.

Once again, all these achievements would not be possible without the support of our funding bodies, sponsors and donors. The consistent labour of our choreographers, dancers, collaborators, volunteers and production team. I would like show appreciation to our Tracks Board, Trustees and staff for their ongoing commitment to our values and for ensuring that we lead the way in the arts community.

I have had the absolute pleasure and honour of Chairing the company over the last 2 years and will be stepping down from this role. I thank the board for their support during my time as Chair and am excited to see what 2022 has in store or us.

Venaska Carmoni Cheliah

2021 AT A GLANCE

Our Works

12
New works created

3
Dance films created

29
Performances

8
Cancelled shows

Our Studio

7
Residency

135
Studio hire hours

901
Studio hours

Our Staff

7
Core Staff

Our People

3,266
Unique attendances at classes

5163
Volunteer hours

200
Passionate locals dancers who danced with us

Our Community

4000
Audiences

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

TRACKS INC.
ABN 83 009 367 124

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 $	2020 $
Income			
Revenue	3	876,996	1,079,167
Total Income		876,996	1,079,167
Expenditures			
Direct program costs		(114,859)	(65,593)
Non-direct program costs		(244,224)	(289,775)
Salaries, wages and fees		(450,477)	(492,867)
Total Expenditures		(809,560)	(848,235)
Profit for the year	4	67,436	230,932
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		67,436	230,932

Tracks operated in a constrained financial environment this year with revenues declining by 23% from 2020. The decline is associated with a reduction in Commonwealth funding and discontinuation of COVID 19 Jobseeker funding in 2020. Tracks maintained a similar level of expenditure to 2020, reducing by 5% while delivering a surplus of $67K to increase the company's net equity to $1M. Tracks maintains a healthy level of reserves, increasing by $108K to support Milpirri and sick leave. In 2021, Tracks experienced negative cash flow which is correlated with the decline in revenue while maintaining expenditure.

Tracks continues to maintain a healthy financial position. While Total Assets declined by 6.1%, Total Liabilities declined by 6.8%. At 31 December 2021, Tracks is well placed to fund its short-term obligations with a current ratio of 6, meaning it holds 6 times more in cash than its short-term obligations. Tracks is well placed to meet the challenges and opportunities it will face over the next 5 years.

Glenn Bernardin Tracks Treasurer

GOVERNANCE

Stewarding Tracks Inc through 2021 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:	Jessica Devereux
Production Manager:	Duane Preston
Administration:	Jo Shearn

Finances

Bookkeeping, BAS/IAS	It Figures Bookkeeping
Auditor	Brian Tucker Audit

Location - How to find us

TRACKS INC office and studio are based on the ground floor at:

Harbour View Plaza, 8 McMinn St, Garramilla |Darwin, Larrakia NT 0810

Mail address: GPO Box 832 Garramilla|Darwin, NT 0810

Website: www.tracksdance.com.au

Socials: https: https://www.facebook.com/tracks.dance //www.instagram.com/tracksdance/

ARTISITIC REPORT

By David McMicken

Resilience, nimbleness, fortitude, and building on strong foundations is what 2021 was all about in another COVID 19 affected year. This was also our transition year from Australia Council for the Arts multi-year funding, where we were operating with less money. While 2020 took away opportunities to perform live work, it did provide us with the opportunity to put both Milpirri and Seasons of Skin and Bark into development, something that paid off in 2021. It was also affirming to see in the rest of Australia that the arts were discovering the importance of community and working collaboratively, something we are proud to say we have been practising for nigh on 30 years.

With rolling shutdowns, lockdowns, lockouts, and remote biosecurity zones we were constantly navigating around the uncertainties while continuing the employment of arts workers, and the making of new original works that reflect the Northern Territory.

I am so proud of our staff, contractors and participants who had to deal with working with reduced numbers in the studio, social distancing, mask-wearing at times, constant cleaning of facilities, and dealing with all the changes that all the other arts organisations in our interdependent sector ecology were having to make. We still managed to make dance, develop dance, celebrate participating in dance, and show dance to our public where and when we could. We produced a Darwin Festival season but were sad to lose one sold-out show, the season's closing night, within moments of lockdown notification.

Homebodies, our Fringe Festival show, was cancelled but the film work went on to win Best Experimental Film at Fist Full of Films Awards. This led to a gallery installation at DVA. Fresh Tracks was postponed and ended up as a studio showing rather than a Brown's Mart Theatre presentation, and the We3 Performing Arts Awards were postponed, taking place minutes after the mask-wearing mandate was lifted. The Grey Panthers continued in many guises with Zoom participation possible for those who could not attend in person, also allowing Rachael Wallis to join each week from Nhulunbuy. The pandemic effects were exacerbated in remote communities and it reduced our capacity to present a whole of community Milpirri Yinapaka performance in Lajamanu. However, a scaled back school student performance, an arts residency at Warnayaka Art Centre and three visual installations still took place.

ARTISTIC PROGRAM

SEASONS OF SKIN AND BARK (Major work)

https://tracksdance.com.au/seasons-skin-and-bark-0

August 8-16. Presented in the Darwin Festival.

6	Sell out shows
1	Cancelled show (due to COVID)
902	Number of tickets sold (100% capacity)
22	Number of dancers
1776	Number of volunteer hours (community dancers & FOH/ushers)
65	Number of hours to bump the site in and out

Set at the foot of a Rain Tree in the luscious George Brown Darwin Botanical Garden, Seasons of Skin and Bark responded to the natural tropical environment, exploring the emerging science of plant life intelligence. Choreographed to a full length, original score by Darwin producer James Mangohig, the inspiring dance work dived below the surface to touch on connections unseen but felt.

Concept and Artistic Directors: Tim Newth and David McMicken

Choreographers: David McMicken, Jessica Devereux, Kate Mornane and Kelly Beneforti

Musical Director: James Mangohig

Musical Collaborator: Lena Kelly

“Stillness – a greatly underutilised aspect in choreography for contemporary dance – is used here to immensely moving and illuminating effect. Stillness in dance is only possible when the choreographers trust their instincts as much as they trust their ensemble, and the many reflective moments of complete stillness throughout the work are brilliantly realised.” - Geoffrey Williams, Stage Whispers

"With such a diverse spread of styles and tones, the choreography reflected many different cultures and experiences of people in Darwin. It also had a feeling of looseness which I have always associated with Darwin; this sense of escapism that comes with the Tropics.” - Piper Mules, cast member

MILPIRRI YINAPAKA – LAJAMANU (Major work)

https://tracksdance.com.au/2021-milpirri-yinapaka

April/May – Soundtrack

August/September - Dance and Visual Arts Residency

Lajamanu is a predominantly a Warlpiri community on Gurindji land. COVID-19 had a disruptive effect in the community, and this affected how Tracks was able to keep the Milpirri project going, especially the performance. In consultation with Milpirri Creative Director, Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, and his father, the senior Elder Jerry Jangala Patrick, it was agreed to reshape and move the larger event to a future time when people could come together to celebrate. Instead Tracks continued its commitment to the community through residences in the school and Warnayaka Art Centre, working with artists, teachers, students and elders.

"I'm so glad we've put everything together...the website and videos...Milpirri holds so much wealth of knowledge of this Country...in the future, some young kids will look at the videos and will be building up interest again." Steve Jampijinpa Patrick

LAJAMANU SCHOOL

Milpirri Soundtrack

12	Number of music workshops in school
146	Number of students who attended the music workshops
6	Number of original compositions created
19	Number of recording sessions with community and elders
16	Number of Warlpiri stories recorded

In April 2021 Marc Peckham, Rob Tremlett, David, and Tim Newth worked in Lajamanu to turn the Milpirri Yinapaka story and music into a full performance soundtrack. Lyrics were developed with Walpiri youth in the school in response to the Yinapaka themes. A narrative in both Warlpiri and English was created and recorded.

Milpirri Dance

29	Number of dance workshops in Lajamanu school
244	Number of unique student attendance at workshops
6	Number of new, original dances created
45	Number of students who performed the dances in the Family Day

Through August and September, the Tracks creative team of dance artists worked with the school students from grades 4-11 to teach 6 themed dances and this was successfully presented to the community during a school Family Day.

Milpirri Bird Tracks

108	Number of painting hours at the art centre
93	Number of bird prints created
3	Number of bird track installations
27	Number of hours to develop the installations

Tracks residency at Warnayaka Arts Centre created ninety-three bird tracks painted on timber cut outs in the same style as the Milpirri Banners, and the artefacts - Men and Boomerangs and Dancing Boards and Clap Sticks. These were then photographed as an installation at Emu Rock and Turkey Creek.

FRESH TRACKS

https://tracksdance.com.au/fresh-tracks-2021

September/November Development. December Showing

2	Number of showings in the Tracks studio
66	Number of tickets sold (100% capacity)
17	Number of choreographers, dancers and musicians
621	Number of volunteer hours

Planned as a Brown's Mart season, COVID restrictions saw Fresh Tracks postponed and remounted (a month later) as an intimate showing in the Tracks studio. The program featured a curated short season of new and original choreographic works by local independent artists.

Curator: Jessica Devereux

Choreographers: Stephanie Spillett, Sita Valadian & Nicky Fearn, Marita Smith, Mave Ward

"Tracks Dance has been supporting my development as an artist since I was in high school. Every project I have participated in, they continue to see potential in me and help me grow." – Stephanie Spillett Choreographer

HOMEBODIES WAREHOUSE/ INSTALLATION

https://tracksdance.com.au/homebodies-dance-film-installations

July

Homebodies warehouse Installation was cancelled days before it was due to open in the Darwin Fringe Festival due to COVID -19.

In November the Homebodies film won 'Best Experimental Film' at the 2021 Fist Full of Films Festival Awards Night at the Deckchair Cinema. The award was supported by Darwin Visual Arts Gallery and as a result, their multimedia gallery space was awarded to Tracks to show the Homebodies film during the gallery's members exhibition.

Conception and Delivery: Jess Devereux and Kelly Beneforti

Video: Duane Preston

DEVELOPMENT IN THE TRACKS STUDIO

SPACE TIME STUDIO RESIDENCY

https://tracksdance.com.au/space-time-studio-residency-202021

January - March & November - December 2021

7	Number of Residencies
495	Number of studio hours

Tracks annual Wet Season Space Time Studio Residency provided valuable time in the studio for independent artists who explored new ideas and ways to make work.

Residents: Lizzi Webb, Lucy Ford, Jessica Devereux, Katy Moir and Jenelle Saunders

TRACKS PACK

June

1	Number of artists
81	Number of studio hours

In partnership with the Darwin Fringe Festival, Track offered international artist Jin Jing time in the studio as she developed her work Cocoon for the 2021 festival. Read our interview with Jin Jing: https://tracksdance.com.au/tracks-pack-2021-darwin-fringe-festival

CHOREOLAB

https://tracksdance.com.au/choreolab-choreographic-program-2021

March – May. Film by Naina Sen

4	Number of Studio Showings
128	Number of tickets sold (96% capacity)
78	Number of course hours
16	Number of participants to complete the course

Tracks annual choreographic program provided an opportunity for 16 movement artists, dance makers and performing artists to explore the mechanics and creative scope of choreography in an artistically rich environment. Four intimate showings of the ten-week course were shared with audiences in and around the Tracks studio and Harbour View Plaza.

"What made the program unique for me, was that it gave me a chance to play and explore and make mistakes and celebrate them, and learn from them, and mould and grow as a dancer." Eleni Vettos

MAKE A DANCE IN A WEEK (MADIAW)

https://tracksdance.com.au/make-dance-week-maddy-brown

April

14 Number of participants
33 Number of course hours

MADIAW school holiday program was designed to create a supportive environment for young dancers to learn, move and practice teamwork. The week culminated in a pop-up performance at the Nightcliff Youth Week Pool Party.

Dance Course Facilitator: Maddy Brown. Youth Dance Assistant: Sophia Hodges

Read our interview with Maddy Brown: https://tracksdance.com.au/meet-maddy-brown

STUDIO CLASSES

DEAD SINGERS DANCE SOCIETY

https://tracksdance.com.au/dead-singers-dance-society-2021

137	Number of Participants (100% class capacity)
16	Number of classes across the series
5	Number of pop-up public performances

Four blocks of the popular DSDS series were held during the year. All classes were sold out and each series culminated in an informal -pop up performance. The music of dearly departed singers was celebrated through:

- Let's Dance - David Bowie (2 - 23 Feb)
- DSDS Extra - Prince, Lisa Left-Eye Lopes, George Michael & Whitney Houston (6 Apr - 4 May)
- Amy Winehouse (2 - 23 Sep)
- Roxette - Marie Fredriksson (9 - 30 Nov)

"This is the best thing I have done since moving to Darwin." - Sally Tierney (Society Member)

BASS & BURN

https://tracksdance.com.au/meet-aimee-chong-bass-burn

2	Number of Bass & Burn series
74	Number of participants (100%capacity)
8	Number of class hours

This exciting addition to Tracks classes was hosted by dance artist Aimee Chong, and accompanied by Kuya James with a live non-stop DJ set. The series was a fusion of styles such as afro-beat, dancehall, hip hop and reggaeton. all classes were sold out.

GREY PANTHERS

https://tracksdance.com.au/2021-grey-panthers

February-November

86	Number of classes throughout the year (Darwin and Batchelor)
56	Number of regular GP's (Darwin and Batchelor)
2556	Number of volunteer hours

Weekly Grey Panthers classes were held from February to November in Darwin and Batchelor. Classes were conducted face to face and at times via Zoom in a response to COVID restrictions. The over 60's dance troupe performed six times at community events during the year

Program Leaders Darwin: David McMicken and Jess Devereux. Coomalie Region: Darryl Butler, and Ellen Hankin (Assistant)

Grey Panthers Youth Development Fund

https://tracksdance.com.au/landing/grey-panthers-youth-development-fund

Each week the Grey Panthers make a donation to their Youth Development Fund. Started in 2018 as a way to offer a helping hand to young NT dancers, the group determine how to spend the money. Due to COVID restrictions there were no YDF projects in 2021. Amount raised in 2021 was $2,717

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.8-14

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

Achieved through:

- Space Time Studio Residency p.15
- Tracks Pack p.15
- Choreolab p.15
- Make A Dance In A Week p.15
- Dead Singers Dance Society (DSDS) p.17
- Grey Panthers Classes p.18

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

Achieved through:

- Having year-round active social media presence

Platform	Jan 2021	Dec 2021
Facebook	3,692	4,025
Instagram	1,250	1,476
Newsletter	1,796	1,795

- **Regional Dance Exchange.** Tracks was invited to be a part of a 'Creative Collaborations' grant application to Ozco, between GUTS, Tasdance, Dancenorth, Tracks and Dancemakers (application was unsuccessful)
- **University of Auckland.** Professor Nicholas Rowe is writing a book 'Critical Studies in Dance Leadership and Inclusion: Tracks Dance'. Due to COVID Tracks has been engaged to conduct interviews on behalf of Professor Rowe

- **University of New South Wales.** A three-year ARC Linkage research grant was awarded to research the knowledge base behind Milpirri and to research an appropriate digital platform to display the knowledge. Led by Ass. Prof. Jennifer Biddle and Dr Sudiipta Dowset
- **APAM** (Australian Performing Arts Market) Tracks was a profiled company during the national event, with a focus on the Darwin Festival work Seasons of Skin and Bark. (NT) https://vimeo.com/625990757 Film by Naina Sen
- Jess Devereux was a peer assessor for Australia Council for the Arts Dance Panel - May round
- **ARTLANDS** Regional Arts Australia national biennial gathering - Adelaide attended the conference hub in Alice Springs, Jess Devereux was a panel member for the session 'Get the Regions Moving" and Homebodies film was featured on the Artlands Instagram link tree.
- **North of Centre** Kelly Beneforti and Jess Devereux travelled to Mparntwe|Alice Springs to perform North of Centre, programmed in the Alice Desert Festival
- **NT Performing Arts Award,** an initiative of We3 Alliance, was presented in November and celebrated the people who make the NT performing arts sector so vibrant.

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

Achieved through:

- Completion of a successful Creative Partnership Plus 1 fundraising campaign ($60,000 raised for new works)
- The Tracks Committee of Management conducted five regular meeting and one AGM
- The Trustees met two times
- Tracks core staff maintained weekly Tuesday staff meetings all year
- Tracks Board participated in two facilitated development sessions with consultants: Amanda Leary from Accrete (NT) March and Kath Melbourne (Tas) November.
  The sessions included exploring: The changed operating environment for the performing arts, finding new money - resourcing our vision, Company roles/positions.
- Tracks staff participated in a one-day session with Kath Melbourne (Tas) Nov exploring company DNA and staffing structure

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

COMPANY PARTNERS

PROJECT PARTNERS

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Photo Credits

Front Cover

Naina Sen's Choreographic Program filming workshop Photo by Duane Preston

2021 At A Glance P.4

Our Works (l-r):

Choreographic Program by Duane Preston, Homebodies by Kelly Beneforti, DSDS Roxette pop-up by Duane Preston, Choreographic Program by Duane Preston

In Our Studio (l-r):

Space Time Studio Residency by Tim Newth, Choreographic Program by Duane Preston, Grey Panthers Odd Sock Day by Tim Newth, DSDS Roxette pop-up by Duane Preston

Our People (l-r):

MADIAW pop-up by Duane Preston, Choreographic Program by Duane Preston, Seasons of Skin & Bark rehearsal by Tim Newth, NT Performing Arts Award by Duane Preston

Seasons of Skin & Bark photo by Duane Preston P.8/9

Milpirri Yinapaka bird tracks photo by Tim Newth P.10

Milpirri dance workshop photo by Zeinab Mahfoud P.11

Fresh Tracks (work by Marita Smith) photo by Duane Preston P. 13

Fist Full of Film Awards photo by Paz Tassone P. 14

Choreographic Program photo by Duane Preston P.16

DSDS David Bowie pop-up at Lucky Bat photo by Duane Preston P.17

Bass & Burn Promo shot photo by Duane Preston P.18

Grey Panthers dancing for MADIAW participant photo by Duane Preston P.19

Choreographic Program photo by Diane Preston P.23