

STAFF

as of 1 December 2014

Alex Anderson, Maintenance Coordinator
 Amida Callinicos, Administrator
 Amy-Clare McCarthy, Programming Coordinator (Visual Art)
 Talulah Jung, Venues and Facilities Coordinator
 Joy Lane, Finance Manager
 Emmaly Langridge, Communications Manager
 Jess Murphy, Operations Manager
 Tom Noble, Administration and Facilities Assistant
 Kieran Swann, Programming Manager (Performance)
 Jo Thomas, Managing Producer
 Katrina Torenbeek, Managing Producer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A total of 10 board meetings were held in 2014.

Chairman

John Dunleavy, Barrister and Chartered Accountant

Directors

Michael Cottier, Chartered Accountant
 Penny Everingham, Actor
 Nigel Lavender, Arts Manager
 Brian Lucas, Performance Maker
 Grant Stevens, Visual Artist
 Margo Powell, Fundraiser

Secretary

Andrea Moor, Actor and Director

Metro Arts would like to thank its funding and programming partners



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

MICHAEL COTTIER
TREASURER



It is a pleasure to present my 3rd annual Metro Arts Treasurer's report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2014 was a year of transition. We saw former CEO Liz Burcham leave Metro mid-year to pursue new interests. I echo the Chairman's kind words about Liz and her long and very significant contribution to Metro. While it was sad to see Liz go, it has been a pleasure to welcome out new CEO Dr David Fenton and to work with him and the Board on a vibrant new strategy, and ensuring that we have the resources needed to execute it successfully.

In my report last year, I commented on the increasing challenges organisations such as Metro face in securing the funding needed to fulfil our higher purpose to artists, audiences, and communities. As the Chairman has mentioned in his report, a priority for new CEO David Fenton and his team is to regularly complete rigorous multiple funding application processes. At the time of writing this report, we do not know the outcomes of some key funding applications, but your Board and management team will continue to stay sharply focussed on securing required funding from a variety of sources.

The year saw venue bookings impacted by changing artist demand for Metro space on current terms and in current economic conditions. Given the challenging funding environment and the struggle to maintain some traditional sources of income such as venue hire, the Board and management are constantly looking for ways to improve value for money.

In another year of challenging operating conditions, I am pleased to report that Metro Arts delivered a small financial surplus, and maintained a sound balance sheet. Revenues for the year were up 13.7% at \$1,454,334. Expenses were up 14.0% to \$1,447,129, with the increase partly impacted by the CEO transition, including recognising Liz's long service. This resulted in a surplus of \$7,205. The Metro Arts Espresso Bar continues to be a great success and a vital contributor to the overall surplus.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the staff for their hard work, dedication, focus and outstanding artistic and administrative delivery during 2014 - particularly during the lengthy and testing period while the Board was securing a new CEO.

It was pleasing to facilitate a mid-year financial review by Metro's external auditor Brian Tucker. Brian presented his mid-year review to the Board at its August meeting and the Board appreciated gaining from Brian's insights and experience.

The Board is currently discussing some very exciting initiatives that could take Metro to new levels in many ways. I look forward to working with management and the Board to secure a vibrant future for Metro. I thank Chairman John Dunleavy and the other members of the Board for their continuing support.

JOHN DUNLEAVY
CHAIRMAN



I take this opportunity to report on a number of events and achievements in 2014.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During 2014 we were sad to see Liz Burcham leave Metro but take this opportunity to thank Liz for her wonderful contribution to Metro Arts. Forever the true advocate for the artists cause Liz has been able to bring her own fingerprints to the Organisation in a way that is distinctive and adding to Metro's sustainability into the future. As an Organisation we have been very lucky to benefit from CEOs, that whilst all different, have been able to positively contribute to the Queensland and National Artistic landscape. We wish Liz all the best on her return to her home state New South Wales and continued career in Arts and Facilities Management.

With Liz's departure we took the opportunity to rethink our CEO needs and the attributes we were looking for in a new candidate for that role. Despite a number of wonderful applicants, replacing Liz took a lot longer than we all would have liked. I take this opportunity to thank all our staff and stakeholders for your patience during this transition. We were pleased to appoint Dr David Fenton to the position of "CEO with artistic input". David has had a number of prior connections with Metro as well as holding a number of senior creative roles in Australia and Overseas. At all times David has continued developing his own Artistic endeavours with notable Domestic and International acclaim and respect for his work. We are sure David will bring his own unique influence to Metro Arts in a way that builds and complements his predecessor's legacies. We are excited by David's contributions and he was instrumental in bringing together our bid for Australian Council funding at the end of 2014.

We developed a new Metro Arts Strategic Plan at the end of 2014 which once again should re-position the Organisation in a direction that is quite different to our competitors. This re-positioning will positively contribute to the Australian Arts landscape as well as build on some of our prior work in MAPS and developing Australian and International collaborations. In what is an increasingly dynamic environment we are continuing to explore diversification, additional funding and new facility options in a way that fuses with our new strategic direction. We are excited by the possibilities for next year from this fusion.

As a final note I would like, as always to thank my fellow Board members, the Metro team and new CEO for your commitment and efforts in 2014 and look forward to an invigorating 2015.

CEO'S REPORT

In 2014 Metro Arts' program of performance and exhibitions was extensive, vibrant and inclusive. During 2014 the organisation conducted 96 discrete artistic activities from presentations, developments, exhibitions, commissions for writing, residencies, co-presentations and tours. Metro Arts supported just under three-hundred artists, arts workers and technicians, across fifty-five artistic collaborations with independent artists and other arts organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

The exhibition program opened strong with the provocative *Brainal Pipes Confusion Cave*, the collaborative work of artists Wendy Wilkins and Wes Hill. The exhibition saw the artists employ commercial banners to invoke a type of abandoned cave in the exhibition space. *Cimarrón* by artist Sally Lewry opened the performance program employing the physical body to explore diverse representations of the savage and civilised, offering an alternative view of the female form in stark contrast to mainstream culture. Both works set the tone for a year in which the art forms were challenged, the audience intrigued and Metro Arts' commitment to contemporary arts excelled.

Another highlight of the exhibition program was *Platform 2014* under the auspice of Jan Manton Art which brought together thought provoking installations and large-scale artworks affirming our commitment to early to mid-career Australian artists working in a diverse range of media. *Platform 2014* included artists Stephen Hart, Michael Doolan, Merete Megarrity and Gabrielle Courtenay, local and interstate artists who contributed to an exhibition full of humour, rigor and risk.

Importantly in 2014 Metro Arts was assisted by Chris Kohn our Theatre Diversity Associate to broaden and strengthen our support of culturally and linguistically diverse work with fantastic results. A Korean pop-up musical-dining-theatre stall, *The 뽕뽕이 Box (The Dokboki Box)* by Younghee Park, Nathan Stoneham & M'ck McKeague, was developed and presented in collaboration with Next Wave Festival. Also the acclaimed *Tukre* by Raghav Handa was presented, inspired by classical Indian dance. *Saltwater* by Jamie Lewis a cross-cultural examination of Asian women was developed and has since gained much attention and finally *Vis and Ramin* by Baran was developed, a re-contextualizing of Iranian performance forms for the 21st century stage. Our ongoing commitment to *Saltwater* and *Vis and Ramin* in 2015 have clearly solidified our commitment to diversity of form, process and representation of culturally and linguistically diverse artists.

To end the year Metro Arts teamed up with local playwright, director, and agitator Daniel Evans to present eight bold and blistering texts from around the globe in *Awkward Conversation*. Diverse in dramatic form, writing and content and featuring directors Shaun Charles, Caroline Dunphy, Linda Hassall, Catarina Hebbard, Todd Macdonald, Steven Mitchell Wright, Glyn Roberts and Lucas Stibbard, the program proved a commercial as well as a critical success, suggesting new models for independent contemporary theatre programming.

Finally during the year Liz Burcham resigned as CEO. As an artist and academic I had many great conversations with Liz about the state of contemporary arts in Australia. Her support for my practice was unwavering and I consider her a valued critical friend. Over the 11 years of her commitment to Metro Arts, particularly as CEO, her influence on the local and national arts scene was undeniable. She pioneered the independent platform for theatre in Brisbane, creating a model adopted nation-wide. I can't thank her enough for her generosity in handing over the baton and making herself available for the complex and important conversations needed to take Metro Arts into its next incarnation.



DAVID FENTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

"The long term benefits are the positioning of the work in the industry and the market – this Metro does very well."
- Anonymous Artist, 2014

RESIDENCIES

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
ANITA HOLTSCLAW

WORKS IN RESIDENCE

VIS AND RAMIN / BARAN
SLAPPERS / CLINT BOLSTER & BRIAN LUCAS
MADAME CARANDINI'S TRAVELLING MUSICAL CURIOSITY SHOW / STEPHEN CARLETON, SANDRO COLARELLI, DAVID FENTON & JOHN RODGERS
SUBURBIA / THE ESCAPISTS
I DIDN'T LIKE THE ENDING / DANIEL EVANS
DUST COVERED BUTTERFLY / THOMAS HUTCHINS & MICHAEL WHITTRED
SALTWATER / JAMIE LEWIS
LAS POZAS / LUCY-ANN LANGKILDE
THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING / THOMAS QUIRK
THE BLUEBIRD MECHANICALS / TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN
THE STANCE / LIESEL ZINK

IN DEVELOPMENT

HILDEGARD/KNEF / APRIL ALBERT
THE GRIEVING PROJECT / FRAN BARBE & GUESTS
ODD-BODY / MAGGIE BROWN, KERENSA DIBALL, TONI MAIN, WILLIAM MCBRIDE, YU HUI NG & ADVA WEINSTEIN
EMERGENCY CRASH LANDING / THE DECONVERTERS
SWIMMING THROUGH AIR / CAROLINE DUNPHY, KATE LEE & JO THOMAS
PACKED / THE ESCAPISTS
RED DOOR / CYNTHIA FOSTER
DE PROFUNDIS / DAVID FENTON & BRIAN LUCAS
EASTERN EUROPEAN ARTIST EXCHANGE / CURATED BY BRITTANY GUY
ALOPECIA / LAURA HAGUE & SARAH STAFFORD
DUST COVERED BUTTERFLY / THOMAS HUTCHINS & MICHAEL WHITTRED
MINING DOUGHNUTS (CARETAKER) / SARI T.M. KVINEN
INFINITY / KENZIE LARSEN
TELL THEM WE'RE NORMAL / REGAN LYNCH



The *Blak'tism*, a new video work by Megan Cope, challenged audience members with subterranean racism within popular culture.

IN PRESENTATION

BEAR WITH ME / TYRONE AND LESLEY
PERFORMANCE: 16 JANUARY

Co-presented with Melbourne Recital Centre

BRAINAL PIPES CONFUSION CAVE / WILKINS HILL
EXHIBITION: 19 FEBRUARY - 8 MARCH

CIMARRÓN / SALLY LEWRY
PERFORMANCE: 5 - 22 MARCH

EVERYTHING IS A DISTRACTION / MARNIE EDMISTON
EXHIBITION: 19 MARCH - 5 APRIL

DRIFT / JULIE VULCAN
PERFORMANCE: 1 - 5 APRIL

Co-presented with ArtsHouse

MORE OR LESS HUMAN / LEENA RIETHMULLER
EXHIBITION: 16 APRIL - 3 MAY

A TRIBUTE OF SORTS / MONSTERS APPEAR
PERFORMANCE: 7-17 MAY

Co-presented with Queensland Theatre Company

ALTERTRUISM DEMOS / GOLDEN SOLUTION
PERFORMANCE: 21 - 24 MAY

Co-presented with Next Wave

TUKRE / RAGHAV HANDA
PERFORMANCE: 21 - 24 MAY

Co-presented with Next Wave

THE BLAK'TISM / MEGAN COPE
EXHIBITION: 21 MAY - 7 JUNE

Co-presented with Next Wave

LESSER GODS / RYAN PRESLEY
EXHIBITION: 21 MAY - 7 JUNE

Co-presented with Next Wave

THE 뽕뽕이 BOX (THE DOKBOKI BOX) / YOUNGHEE PARK & NATHAN STONEHAM
PERFORMANCE: 21 MAY - 7 JUNE

Co-presented with Next Wave

INVISIBLE MOVEMENTS / CAITLIN FRANZMANN
EXHIBITION: 16 JULY - 2 AUGUST

PLATFORM 2014 / JAN MANTON ART
EXHIBITION: 14 - 30 AUGUST

NOT MUCH TO TELL YOU / KAITLYN PLYLEY
PERFORMANCE: 27 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER

FEEL THE QUALITY / LLEWELLYN MILLHOUSE & SARAH POULGRAIN
EXHIBITION: 10 - 27 SEPTEMBER

FLEET / OK YEAH COOL GREAT
EXHIBITION: 22 OCTOBER - 8 NOVEMBER

PACKED / THE ESCAPISTS
PERFORMANCE: 23 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER

Co-presented by HotHouse Theatre

AWKWARD CONVERSATION / DANIEL EVANS
PERFORMANCE: 19 - 29 NOVEMBER

SEARCHING / ANITA HOLTSCLAW
EXHIBITION: 19 NOVEMBER - 6 DECEMBER

FRIDAY NIGHT

7 MARCH / 4 APRIL / 6 JUNE / 4 JULY / 1 AUGUST / 5 SEPTEMBER /
7 NOVEMBER / 5 DECEMBER

"Metro staff take great care in understanding the scope and nature of the artistic process, form and indeed its place within a potential market – it is an artist led process with great support."
- Anonymous Artist, 2014

FACILITIES REPORT

The beginning of 2014 began with the Metro Arts Pop Up bar – transforming the Carriageway and out the back into a bar and live performance venue. The Pop Up Bar was aimed at industry professionals in Brisbane for the Australian Performing Arts Market and was a success. The four day event attracted artists, general public and delegates as well as showcasing work from Dom Miller, Little Dove Theatre Art, Brian Lucas and The Good Room.

The Espresso Bar continued its growth with the necessity of a third staff member being added to the morning team in early 2014. Also March saw the implementation of an online Point of Sale System, this new system streamlined business processes and allowed for present and future growth for the Espresso Bar.

Metro Arts also continued expansion within Food and Beverage and Facilities Hire adding three weddings to our event calendar. These weddings utilised the Carriageway, Gallery and Studio 4.2 and drew a new audience to the Old Broad – which we plan to expand upon throughout 2015.



JESS MURPHY
BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

"It's really important to me that Metro Arts as creative producers get a credit...
They were a crucial part of the project for me."
- Claire Marshall, 2014

PRODUCING HUB REPORT

This was an important foundation-building year for our Producing Hub as it continued to extend in reach and capacity. Metro Arts delivered the sixth and final year of the MAPS initiative for Queensland artists, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts Queensland, along with a managing and producing service for a number of independent Queensland artists' works. Over the last 12 months Metro Arts' Producing Hub provided producer services to 11 independent artists/collectives (a total of 39 artists) on 14 projects which have been developed and/or presented in venues across Queensland, nationally and internationally.

In the past year, our Artists have continued generating considerable interest from the marketplace presenting premiere seasons as part of major festival programs, touring to metropolitan and regional centres, showcasing their work as part of signature programs and securing ongoing opportunities and funding for new and existing projects. Building upon the relationships from 2013, Jo Thomas returned to IPAY where *boy girl wall* was presented in a highly prestigious Showcase slot. Negotiations with US Agents for possible US/Canadian touring ensued. International relationship building continued in February when Brisbane hosted APAM, the Australian Performing Arts Market, for the first time. Metro Arts represented two works, again both with prestigious Showcase opportunities, and vigorously built relationships both at APAM and at our own 'backyard' events hosting artist performances and forums with APAM delegates. National relationship building continued at the APACA (Australian Performing Arts Centres Association) Conference, Harvest – Fresh Ideas for Performing Arts – in Hobart; while vital regional relationships were formed in July with remote communities throughout Queensland. Five of these communities formed the niche touring circuit for the inaugural New ERA Program (2015) partially funded through a new relationship with Tim Fairfax Family Foundation. Our artists continued creating Australian works of excellence including *De Profundis* and *Packed*, which premiered with Hothouse Theatre. New producing relationships were formed with Lisa Wilson, Casus and Claire Marshall and we facilitated the premiere season of Claire's *Flaunt*.

Late in 2014 Managing Producer and long-time Metro employee Katrina Torenbeek tendered her resignation. We thank Katrina for her tireless work over many years particularly with the successful development of the Producing Hub and her great care working with artists to realise their artistic visions.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

RESIDENCIES, CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS & SHOWINGS

SUBURBIA / THE ESCAPISTS
Work in Residence at Metro Arts

BOY GIRL WALL / THE ESCAPISTS
Performance at IPAY and APAM showcases, performance season at Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

TRADE WINDS / POLYTOXIC
Performance at APAM showcase

EXQUISITE / FRAN BARBE & GUESTS
Work in Development showing at Metro Arts

SHOWCASE X
Showcase of Work in Development at Metro Arts, method of strengthening presenter relationships

WORLD PREMIERES

FLAUNT / CLARE MARSHALL
Premiere Season as part of Brisbane Powerhouse's SWEET Program

PACKED / THE ESCAPISTS
Premiere performance season in partnership with HotHouse Theatre



JO THOMAS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

AVAILABLE TO TOUR

HOME / MARGI BROWN ASH
BOY GIRL WALL / THE ESCAPISTS
ELEPHANT GUN / THE ESCAPISTS
PIANO LESSONS / ANNA GOLDSWORTHY
THE EMPTY CITY / THE HUMAN COMPANY
PERFORMANCE ANXIETY / BRIAN LUCAS
FLAUNT / CLAIRE MARSHALL
BEAR WITH ME / DAVID MEGARRITY
TRADE WINDS / POLYTOXIC
A TRIBUTE OF SORTS / MONSTERS APPEAR
AURELIAN / GENEVIEVE TRACE



A culmination of Anita Holtscław's year as Artist in Residence, *searching* builds on dialogues of longing and loss in the landscape found in art history and cinema.