

TANTRUM
youth arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

2014

Chair's Report

At a time when funding is limited and arts organisations are under the threat of further cuts, it is testament to a bold vision, scrupulous management and the commitment of staff and board that Tantrum, under the capable guidance of artistic director Amy Hardingham, has completed one of its most successful programs in recent years.

At the beginning of 2014 Tantrum had a significant deficit. With financial mentorship from board members Mel Woodward and Rachel McKenna, we achieved a surplus at years end. This has given the organisation some much-needed respite, as the future of Tantrum was looking particularly perilous at the beginning of the year.

The perseverance of our Marketing Coordinator, Claire Albrecht, to ensure that our home at 48 Watt St is regularly hired by external arts organisations, community groups and for special events, has enabled Tantrum to sustain our tenancy in this versatile venue. At the same time we have developed a vibrant creative hub that has substantial economic and cultural value for the broader community. It is also a delightful setting for celebratory events although I wonder how many other theatre companies have to spend valuable resources coordinating wedding bookings in order to survive.

Our Halloween fund raising event not only contributed funds but also built on important relationships within the community. Staff and board members along with the performances by our talented young participants and local artists must be commended for their commitment to making this event a success.

In 2014 we commenced a workshop program in Charlestown. This has extended our reach and made available opportunities to young people unable to travel to our Newcastle venue.

Tantrum remains accessible and inclusive and provides diverse opportunities to a broad demographic. Even with limited resources we are still able to offer financial needs scholarships.

Tantrum has become the major employer of emerging theatre artists in the Hunter region. As well as providing much needed support and recognition to these artists, we are at the same time making a significant contribution to the local economy both culturally and financially.

The talented Tantrum team - Lucy, Tristram, Tamara, Claire and James, led by visionary Artistic Director Amy Hardingham - has not only delivered a strong, dynamic program but has also redefined the strategic direction of the organization, a shift that has been endorsed by our major funding partner Arts NSW.

Turning a deficit into a surplus whilst maintaining an exemplary program is no mean feat. This, coupled with a new strategic direction, suggests that Tantrum is punching well above its weight on a national level – well done everyone. I look forward to what we can achieve in 2015.

Christopher Saunders

Chair, Tantrum Youth Arts Board of Directors



2014

Artistic Director's Report

2014 was an important year for Tantrum. We relaunched ourselves as Tantrum Youth Arts, a name designed to reflect the contemporary, cross-artform nature of our work. We rolled out a new artistic vision. We created a program of beautiful, dynamic work that embodied our new name, our vision and our objectives. And, for the first time since losing Australia Council program funding in 2012, we posted a modest surplus at year's end.

Tantrum's new vision is underpinned by three key objectives: to create innovative and dynamic new performance works, to engage with our communities through partnerships and place, and to support young, emerging and professional theatre artists in our region. Our diverse and dynamic program met and exceeded all three.

We started the year with the extraordinary Diving off the Edge of the World. Described by critics and audiences as "magical", "remarkable" and "utterly beautiful", Diving was a participatory, multi-arts extravaganza that brought together older community members, young people, emerging and eight brilliant professional artists to demonstrate our collaborative theatre making process. The project could not have happened without the support from our partners Surfest, Orica Kooragang Island, Arts NSW, and the City of Newcastle.


After the Newcastle-centric buzz of Diving, we focused our energy on capacity building in other parts of our region, cementing our position as the leading professional youth arts company in the Hunter. Singleton Tales, our collaboration with Singleton Youth Venue and Arts Upper Hunter supported by the Regional Arts Fund, took a group of keen young performers, and their director, emerging artist Dan Stranger, through the process of developing a new piece of theatre for the very first time. Under the expert guidance of contemporary theatre-maker Tamara Gazzard, this group explored,

documented, interviewed and wrote all about life in Singleton. The result was a beautifully woven together hour long piece of verbatim theatre that delighted audiences with its fresh energy and new perspectives.

Under the creative leadership of Central Coast based director Anna Kerrigan, and leading playwright Vanessa Bates, the Wyong Project was a workshop-based skills and ideas development laboratory supported by Wyong Shire Council and the ArtsNSW Regional Theatre Fund. The workshop process culminated in the production of a new half hour play, Central Coast Ghosts. The performance of the play completely packed out the theatre at The Grove Community and Cultural hub in Wyong. Through this process, relationships were developed, promising emerging artists were identified, and themes and concepts were explored that will feed into a brand new full length play by Vanessa Bates to premiere in Wyong in 2016.

Back in Newcastle, the Antigone Project saw our Associate Director Lucy Shepherd collaborating with emerging film maker Solomon Nagbe and a group of young people, mostly newly arrived from Africa, at San Clemente School Mayfield. Together the group developed, rehearsed and shot two short films – Antigone, which screened in Refugee Week at Newcastle Museum, and Love is Friendship by participant Rachel Saidi, which is due to screen in 2015. Both films were directed by Lucy and edited by Solomon, and both are works of which we are very proud. Thank you to Northern Settlement Services and the Community Relations Commission for their support.

Throughout the year, we performed our theatre-in-education show, Opening Doors, to Year 10 students from eight schools across the Hunter thanks to funding from Westpac Foundation. Written and directed by Tamara Gazzard, and developed and



delivered in partnership with Co-operative Legal Service Delivery Inc, Opening Doors is an innovative, interactive show that educates students about domestic violence and sexting. We are proud to have employed four local emerging artists as performers for this project.

In September, we opened our production of *The Chosen* at Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre with the support of Lake Macquarie City Council. *The Chosen*, by playwright and former Tantrum Artistic Director Lachlan Philpott, is a beautiful story of a girl desperate to fit that is lifted into the realm of the other-worldly through strong imagery of space and the question of whether or not we are alone in the universe. The production featured a dozen incredibly talented performers aged 13-32, stunning choral arrangements of space-themed pop songs, and a beautiful set by Nicky Barber which showcased projections, shadows and lighting by Lyndon Buckley. After our local season, we toured the work to Sydney-based Australian Theatre for Young People, who generously hosted a week-long season as part of their Cameo program.

In November we delivered Hissyfest, our dynamic and diverse short play festival, for the first time on the stage of the Civic Playhouse. Hissyfest was produced

by talented emerging artist James Chapman and featured ten brand new short plays, and over forty writers, directors and actors.

In addition to all this, we delivered a number of smaller projects. From hosting Melbourne Comedy festival's Class Clowns, to partnering with City of Newcastle to deliver the Wacky Wombat story-based performance program for pre-schoolers, to running Reptilia, our reptile-kingdom themed school holiday program at Hunter Wetlands which concluded with an ambitious site-specific performance, to our extensive after-school workshop program with its wonderful showcase of performances and short films that took place in December at the Civic Playhouse, it was a huge, varied, and exciting year.

As you can imagine, such a big and diverse program has strengthened Tantrum and enabled us to clearly articulate who we are, and why we are important. Our many achievements required enormous commitment and dedication from the Tantrum staff and Board, and we are proud that our hard work has propelled Tantrum forward into a very exciting future.

Amy Hardingham

Artistic Director and CEO
Tantrum Youth Arts

2014

Major Projects

Diving off the Edge of the World

February 14, 15, 21 & 22
Newcastle Ocean Baths

We celebrated the end of Summer in February 2014 with the extraordinary *Diving off the Edge of the World*. Described by critics and audiences as “magical”, “remarkable” and “utterly beautiful”, *Diving* was a participatory, multi-arts extravaganza that brought together older community members with over 60 young people, emerging artists and eight brilliant professional artists to demonstrate our collaborative theatre-making process. The work activated Newcastle Ocean Baths through a range of innovative performances and films that used memories of the long gone ‘map of the world pool’ as creative stimulus.

Major supporter: Orica Koorangang Island

Total number of attendees: 652,
representing a sell-out season

Last night watched ‘Diving off the Edge’. I am speechless, so incredibly clever and well written, original. I am honored to have been to this production, so many talented actors, I want to see more of this.

Audience member

CO-DIRECTORS
Lucy Shepherd
Amy Hardingham

FILM MAKER
James Edwards

CHOREOGRAPHER
Cadi McCarthy

COMPOSER / MUSICIAN
Zackari Watt
feat. instrumentals by
Xavier Fogarty (aged 9)

VISUAL ARTIST
Liz Anelli

PLAYWRIGHT
Vanessa Bates

SYNCHRO TRAINER
Naomi Emerson

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Amy Morris

TECHNICAL MANAGER
Gererd Wilson (Wiltech)

STAGE MANAGER
Zoe Arthur

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Tamara Gazzard

COSTUMES
Kayla Crowe

COSTUME MAKERS
Bronwyn Crowe & Norah Groves

PROPS
Leah Sellers-Fay


PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN
Claire Albrecht



*"Diving off the Edge of
the World is an amazing
achievement"*

Ken Longworth, reviewer,
Newcastle Herald
17.02.2014



A young woman with dark, curly hair is looking upwards with a contemplative expression. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved button-down shirt with a scalloped collar and small floral embroidery. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with tall, thin trees and a bright sky, suggesting a park or garden setting. In the top right corner, there is a black circular overlay containing a quote and its source.

*"Philpott's Awgie
nomination for the play
was well deserved..."*

Ken Longworth, reviewer,
Newcastle Herald
17.02.2014

2014 Major Projects

The Chosen by Lachlan Philpott

Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre: 17-21 September
Australian Theatre for Young People, Sydney: 1-5 October

In September, we opened our production of *The Chosen* at Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre with the support of Lake Macquarie City Council. *The Chosen*, by playwright and former Tantrum Artistic Director Lachlan Philpott, is a beautiful story of a girl desperate to fit that is lifted into the realm of the other-worldly through strong imagery of space and the question of whether or not we are alone in the universe. The production featured a dozen incredibly talented performers aged 13-32, stunning choral arrangements of space-themed pop songs, and a beautiful set by Nicky Barber which showcased projections, shadows and lighting by Lyndon Buckley. After our local season, we toured the work to Sydney-based Australian Theatre for Young People, who generously hosted a week-long season as part of their Cameo program.

Major supporter: Lake Macquarie City Council

Total number of attendees:

Lake Macquarie: 494 Sydney: 235

DIRECTOR
Amy Hardingham

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Nicola Barber

LIGHTING DESIGNER AND
TECHNICAL MANAGER
Lyndon Buckley

CHORAL DIRECTOR
Zoe Arthur

ASSISTANT CHORAL DIRECTOR
Marjorie Butcher

STAGE MANAGER
James Chapman

STAGE CREW
Emilia Flaherty, David Lobb,
Conagh Punch

MARKETING / DESIGN /
PHOTOGRAPHY
Claire Albrecht

MODEL
Rowan Moses

TANTRUM STAFF
Lucy Shepherd, Tristram Baumber,
Tamara Gazzard

"Congrats to the whole terrific crew from Tantrum Youth Arts on a beautiful production of The Chosen. I was very proud of the show and thrilled to be there for it"

Lachlan Philpott, Playwright

2014

Other Projects



Opening Doors

Throughout the year, we performed our theatre-in-education show, *Opening Doors*, to Year 10 students from eight schools across the Hunter thanks to funding from Westpac Foundation. Written and directed by Tamara Gazzard, and developed and delivered in partnership with Co-operative Legal Service Delivery Inc, *Opening Doors* is an innovative, interactive show that educates students about domestic violence and sexting. We are proud to have employed four local emerging artists as performers for this project.

"It was confronting but helped me to realise that what seemed normal at home isn't necessarily right."

"An excellent play that touched on important issues that our young people face everyday."

- Audience members



Singleton Tales

In 2014 Tantrum focused energy on capacity building in other parts of our region, cementing our position as the leading professional youth arts company in the Hunter. *Singleton Tales*, our collaboration with Singleton Youth Venue and Arts Upper Hunter with additional support from the Regional Arts Fund, took a group of keen young performers, and their director, emerging artist Dan Stranger, through the process of developing a new piece of theatre for the very first time. Under the expert guidance of contemporary theatre-maker Tamara Gazzard, this group explored, documented, interviewed and wrote all about life in Singleton. The result was a beautifully woven together hour long piece of verbatim theatre that premiered at Singleton Youth Venue. It delighted audiences with its fresh energy and new perspectives. Additional digital story outcomes were developed and distributed via ABC Open.



The Antigone Project

The Antigone Project saw our Associate Director Lucy Shepherd collaborating with emerging film maker Solomon Nagbe and a group of young people, mostly newly arrived from Africa, at San Clemente School Mayfield. Together the group developed skills in dance, theatre and video skills before focusing on making short films – *Antigone*, based on the Sophocles play, which screened in Refugee Week at Newcastle Museum, and *Love is Friendship* written

by participant Rachel Saidi, which is due to screen in 2015. Both films were directed by Lucy and edited by Solomon, and both are works of which we are very proud. Additional support from Community Relations Commission for a Multi-Cultural NSW and Northern Settlement Services. Tantrum also collaborated with City Evolutions on the development of several projection sites, with Tantrum members performing in films and providing voiceovers for one of the sites.



The Wyong Project

Under the creative leadership of Central Coast based director Anna Kerrigan, and leading playwright Vanessa Bates, the Wyong Project was a workshop-based skills and ideas development laboratory supported by Wyong Shire Council and the ArtsNSW Regional Theatre Fund. The workshop process culminated in the production of a new half hour play, *Central Coast Ghosts*. According to writer Vanessa Bates, is “a 40 minute play about ghosts on the coast and the newcomer who can see them all - new girl Mia, who takes on the challenge of helping the Coast Ghosts reconnect

with their lost humans”. It’s a bittersweet storyline contrasted with the wacky, grotesque humour of a wild group of ghostly ghouls, including scaly King Eric and TV Hosts DK Stench and Offal Heap, whose TV show is recorded “live” in front of the audience. The performance of the play completely packed out the theatre at The Grove Community and Cultural hub in Wyong. Through this process, relationships were developed, promising emerging artists were identified, and themes and concepts were explored that will feed into a brand new full length play by Vanessa Bates to premiere in Wyong in 2016.



Trade &
Investment
Arts NSW

Hissyfest Newcastle

In November we delivered Hissyfest, our dynamic and diverse short play festival, for the first time on the stage of the Civic Playhouse. Hissyfest was produced by talented emerging artist James Chapman and featured ten brand new short plays, and over forty writers, directors and actors.

Hissyfest featured the following plays:

Resistance Is Futile by Lisa Chamberlain and Gabriella Stevens, *Fruit and Nuts* by Michael Lill, *Ones and Zeros* by James Chapman, *Learning Curve* by Sally Davies, *The Cod Fish* by Joel Burrows, *Ella And Louis* by Olivia Satchel, *Beating Around The Bush* by Nicola Fraietta, *Girl (Eats) Boy* by Carissa Licciardello, *My Own Worst Enemy* by Alex Giles, and *With Ruby* by Didem Caia.

Class Clowns *Wacky Wombat* *Reptilia* *After-school workshops*

Our smaller projects and workshops ranged from hosting Melbourne Comedy festival's Class Clowns, to partnering with City of Newcastle to deliver the Wacky Wombat story-based performance program for pre-schoolers, to running Reptilia, our reptile-kingdom themed school holiday program at Hunter Wetlands which concluded with an ambitious site-specific performance, to our extensive after-school workshop program with its wonderful showcase of performances and short films that took place in December at the Civic Playhouse.



A young boy with light brown hair is climbing a tree. He has a green headband and his face is painted with green, black, and white. He is wearing a yellow tank top and grey camouflage shorts. He has his tongue sticking out and is looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a house.

TANTRUM

youth arts

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2014

		2014 \$	2013 \$
Grant & workshop income	2	244,462	202,371
Other income	2	57,137	67,888
Artist fees, salaries and employee benefits		(226,451)	(193,146)
Depreciation expense	3	(824)	(262)
Administration expenses		(14,927)	(32,787)
Occupancy expenses		(20,712)	(13,576)
Audit of the financial report	3	(2,583)	(4,161)
Other production costs		(25,893)	(35,534)
Sundry expenses		(799)	(4,941)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		<u>9,410</u>	<u>(14,148)</u>
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u><u>9,410</u></u>	<u><u>(14,148)</u></u>
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u><u>9,410</u></u>	<u><u>(14,148)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2014

		2014 \$	2013 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		153,386	101,006
Trade and other receivables	4	2,876	14,500
Other current assets	5	4,938	5,899
Total current assets		<u>161,200</u>	<u>121,405</u>
Non-current assets			
Plant & equipment	6	5,506	1,253
Total non-current assets		<u>5,506</u>	<u>1,253</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>166,706</u></u>	<u><u>122,658</u></u>
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	24,810	16,717
Other liabilities	8	122,814	105,726
Employee entitlements	9	16,974	7,517
Total current liabilities		<u>164,598</u>	<u>129,960</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u><u>164,598</u></u>	<u><u>129,960</u></u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>2,108</u></u>	<u><u>(7,302)</u></u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	10	2,108	(7,302)
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>2,108</u></u>	<u><u>(7,302)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.