

2016 Annual Report

# 2016 Chair's Report

2016 was a year of milestones, change and consolidation. We celebrated 40 years of operation, making Tantrum one of the longest running youth arts organisations in the country.

At a time when funding is being slashed from the youth arts sector in Australia it is humbling to see that our little organisation has continued to reinvent itself and survive against the odds whilst at the same time delivering a first rate program with something for everyone. We acknowledge the ongoing funding support for our operations from Arts NSW as well as project support from the lan Potter Foundation, James N Kirby Foundation, nib foundation, Catalyst – Australian Arts and Culture Fund, Lake Macquarie City Council and Newcastle City Council. Without this ongoing commitment and investment in the arts Newcastle would be a duller place to live.

In May, the world premier of *Trailer* by renowned local playwright Vanessa Bates commissioned by Tantrum in 2015 opened the new Art House Theatre Studio in Wyong. An honour in itself to be the first company in a new purpose built venue on the Central Coast; *Trailer* was an exceptional production by a stellar ensemble of creative contributors that was presented in both Newcastle and Sydney as well. The legacy of *Trailer* saw an ongoing collaboration with Wyong that produced the participatory work *Periphery* in June.

In Newcastle our weekly workshop program increased participant numbers, aided by a clever "bring a friend" initiative that helped to spread the word and build capacity.

Our emerging artist initiative *Trajectory* has created opportunities for local theatre makers to engage with the art form without having go to Sydney for a similar experience.

Tantrum's annual site-specific performance in 2016 took us to Fort Scratchley with the acclaimed *Manning the Fort*, an outstanding award winning production that demonstrated Newcastle's ability to deliver first-rate participatory work.

It is testimony to the vision and commitment of



### 2016

### **Artistic Director's Report**

2016 was a year of celebration for Tantrum Youth Arts. We celebrated our 40th birthday, we completed the final stage of *The Wyong Project* with the presentation of *Trailer* by Vanessa Bates, we acknowledged the amazing contribution the Australian Womens Army Service (AWAS) made for future generations of young women in *Manning the Fort*, and we celebrated the outstanding contribution Amy Hardingham made to Tantrum over the past four years, truly consolidating Tantrum's position as the leading professional Youth Arts Company in Newcastle and the Hunter.

Tantrum started the year with Lucy Shepherd acting as Artistic Director while Amy Hardingham was on parental leave. Rehearsals began on the Central Coast with Anna Kerrigan directing Tantrum's new play Trailer by Vanessa Bates, a commission resulting from our two-year residency in Wyong supported by the Wyong Shire Council and Arts NSW Regional Theatre Fund. Our twoyear residency in Wyong brought young, emerging and professional artists together in a creative development process resulting in a truly unique, innovative and captivating new work written by Vanessa Bates that explored community and place. Following our residency, Central Coast Council engaged Tantrum to mentor emerging artist Joshua Maxwell to develop a new work, clearly demonstrating Tantrum's legacy of valuing new work and local stories, and placing young people in the centre of the creative process. The result was *Periphery*; an ensemble work about people living on the coast, collaboratively devised by a team of young performers and contributing local writers.

In Newcastle, we launched *Trajectory*, Tantrum's emerging artists initiative, a suite of programs designed to provide pathways for emerging artists in the region to develop professional careers. This included the *Trajectory Ensemble*, an annual program of professional development for emerging artists interested in process-driven performance making. Additionally, *Trajectory Residency* provided space, time and mentorship to one of Newcastle's most exciting emerging artists to develop new work, and *Trajectory Masterclass* provided a series of professional development

and training opportunities for emerging artists and current practitioners led by established, professional artists and industry leaders.

Opening Doors, Tantrum's interactive performance work for schools, educated and empowered young people through an increased knowledge and understanding of the causes and impacts of domestic violence and the support services available. Opening Doors was performed 16 times in 2016 to a variety of schools in Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast. Tantrum has been delivering this project in partnership with Co-operative Legal Service Delivery in the Hunter-Central Coast region since 2013. Thank you James N Kirby Foundation and the nib foundation for making this production possible in 2016.

Mid-way through the year we celebrated Tantrum's 40th Birthday! We celebrated by holding a day long festival taking over the Newcastle Community Arts Centre filling every empty space with a variety of activities including: performances, forums, film screenings, installations, music and readings. The day attracted over 300 people, including current members, alumni and friends of Tantrum, with most of the company's previous Artistic Directors being able to participate as special guests: Mike Foster, Mark Reedman, Leticia Caceres, Lachlan Philpott, Brendan O'Connell and Amy Hardingham. It was a fabulous day that really enforced the company's long standing values of collaboration, inclusion and excellence.

In the latter half of the year Amy Hardingham returned to work and led the company with Lucy Shepherd as Co-Artistic Directors.

Following the success of Tantrum's historically inspired site-specific works *Diving off the Edge of the World* and *Stories in our Steps*, Amy Hardingham produced the third installment in this historical tradition, *Manning the Fort*. *Manning the Fort* was the result of eighteen months' research and writing conducted by Amy Hardingham, including interviews with members of her own family, six months of collaborative theatre making by professional artists and young people, and a

partnership with Flipside Youth Dance. Over 50 young people were involved in the development of this dynamic, new performance work. Manning the Fort was dedicated to the 250 plus women who served at Fort Scratchley during the Second World War, and at the conclusion of each performance, the audience was invited to attend a museum exhibition of uniforms, photos and equipment from real ex-servicewomen curated by Fort Scratchley Historical Society. Newcastle Region Library also invited Tantrum to deposit the script of Manning the Fort in the Library's Local Studies collection. Manning the Fort was a resounding success for participants and audiences alike, making Amy's final major production with Tantrum Youth Arts as Artistic Director a memorable experience for all involved. Special thank you to Arts NSW, Civic Venues City of Newcastle, Fort Scratchley Historical Society, Hunter Business Lions Club, University of Newcastle, Newcastle Region Library Local Studies Unit for supporting this production.

Other opportunities for young and emerging artists continued through *Hissyfest*, Tantrum's annual short play festival. Now in its fourth year, it continues to build capacity for emerging writers, directors, actors and producers. With record numbers of participation in 2016, *Hissyfest* is growing from strength to strength, becoming an accessible and respected platform for young, emerging, independent and community artists to take risks, develop new skills, and stretch themselves across every part of the theatremaking process.

In addition to this, we delivered a number of smaller projects in collaboration with various community organisations in 2016. The creative partnership between Newcastle Region Library and Tantrum saw us rebrand the *Wacky Wombat* program to *Stories Come Alive*, better reflecting the shows content and innovative, contemporary appeal. Tantrum continued to employ an emerging artist to devise and present this early childhood program bringing stories to life for pre-schoolers through performance, creative play, song and dance. Other projects included: *Class Clowns* with Melbourne International Comedy Festival, *Play in A Day* workshops with Arts Upper Hunter and

Drama Workshops for the *Love Bites* Program with NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).

Tantrum's after-school Creative Drama Workshop Program continued to engage young people K-12 in collaborative and inclusive theatre making processes. We also expanded our program to include a weekly Performance Studio, catering for those up to 21 years of age, wanting to attend weekly drama workshops after leaving school. Workshop participants performed a series of comical and heart-warming stories about *Changing the World* at the end of year showcase, held at the Civic Playhouse in December.

Tantrum's 2016 program of activities celebrated who we are, and demonstrated our ongoing commitment to supporting young and emerging artists in our region towards professional careers in the arts. We created innovative and new performance works through collaborative processes that challenged, provoked and encouraged change and were highly valued by our audiences. We engaged with community through partnerships and created works specific to place, informing our identity.

Our achievements this year required enormous dedication from the Tantrum staff and Board, maintaining ongoing relationships, fostering new ideas and partnerships for the future and creating pathways for emerging artists to flourish. It's been a wonderful year and we are sad to see Amy Hardingham leave, but her legacy and passion will continue to guide us as we embrace our new roles, face the challenges and enjoy the successes of years to come.

#### **Lucy Shepherd**

Artistic Director and CEO Tantrum Youth Arts

# 2016 Major Projects

# Trailer by Vanessa Bates

The Art House, Wyong, 12-14 May 2016 Studio 1, ATYP, Sydney 1-4 June 2016 Civic Playhouse, Newcastle, 8-11 June 2016

Jed still lives with his mother, between the beach and the bush, on a train line with a city at either end. People say he's waiting for his father to come back. Jed doesn't know his father but he knows who his father could be. He's seen every movie, he's read all the articles, he's watched all the trailers. The truth is, it's hard having a star for a dad, when you're completely ordinary. Unless of course, that's not the truth. And that could be harder. Trailer is a darkly comic play about love, family and clocking on at the dream factory.

Trailer was the final outcome of Tantrum's three-year residency in Wyong, supported by Wyong Shire Council and Arts NSW Regional Theatre Fund. Since mid 2014 Tantrum Youth Arts facilitated a three-stage performance based workshop and production program targeting young and emerging artists, culminating in a commission to write a professional, full-length play about life on the Central Coast. Tantrum's artists in residence were professional theatre director and Wyong Shire resident Anna Kerrigan, and award-winning playwright Vanessa Bates.

Wyong-based emerging artist Joshua Maxwell received professional mentorship from theatre designer Tobhiyah Feller and designed the set and costumes for *Trailer*. Central Coast local Jess Blackburn created Sound Design, and Tallulah Cobban acted at Keera. Many emerging artists were engaged in Tantrum's activities during the residency and contributed to the development of this exciting new play.

Trailer premiered in the inaugural season of brand new theatre venue, The Art House, Wyong, before touring to Sydney to the Australian Theatre for Young People as part of their Cameo program,



and then to the Civic Playhouse Newcastle, as part of the Civic Theatre's 2016 subscription season.

Audience response to *Trailer* was overwhelmingly positive, being highly praised by both critics and audiences alike. Tallulah Cobban won Best Performance by a Female Actor under 18 years at the 2016 City Of Newcastle Drama Awards.

Trailer was commissioned and presented by Tantrum Youth Arts with the support of Wyong Shire Council and Arts NSW Regional Theatre Fund. It was also developed with the support of Playwriting Australia at the National Script Workshops 2015.

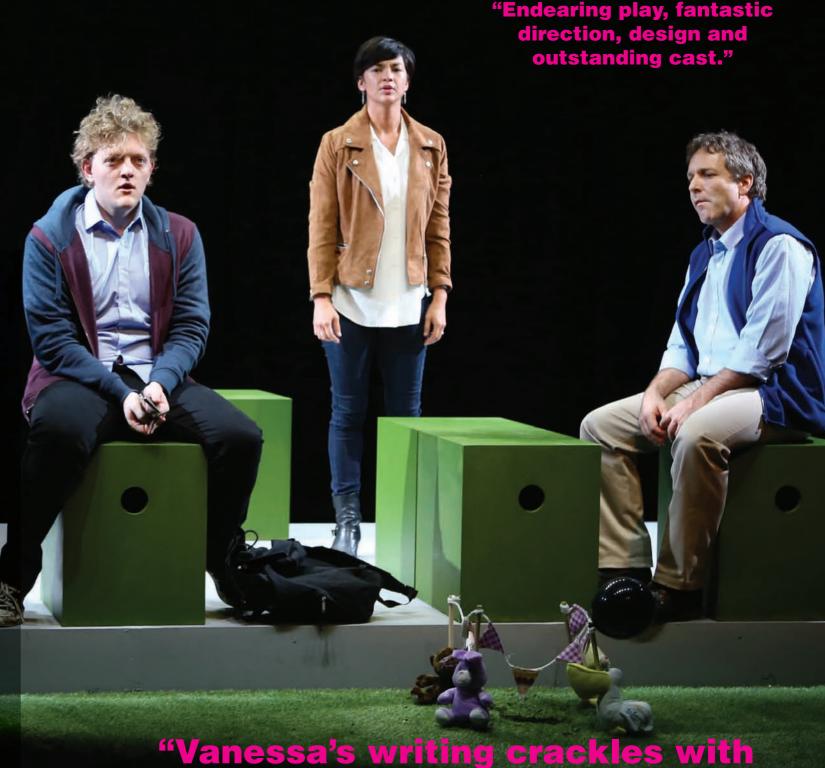
Total number of attendees: Wyong: 186

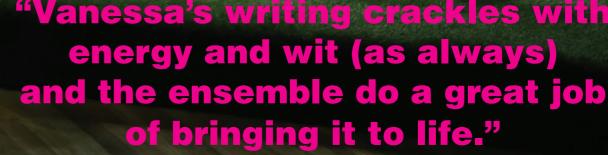
Sydney: 165 Newcastle: 526

#### **CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW**

Playwright Vanessa Bates Director Anna Kerrigan Cast

Jed Jackson Vaughan
Keera Tallulah Cobban
Jane Angie Diaz
Frank Christopher Saunders
Designer Joshua Maxwell
Design Mentor Tobhiyah Feller
Sound Designer Jess Blackburn
Lighting Designer Lyndon Buckley
Stage Manager Jess Blackburn
Set Construction Philip Lantay
Producer Tamara Gazzard

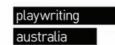












# 2016 **Major Projects**

### Manning the Fort

**Fort Scratchley** 20-29th October 2016











Manning the Fort was a successful site-specific, participatory performance work bringing to life hidden aspects of Newcastle's history. Manning the Fort activated key historical tourism site Fort Scratchley with a variety of visually impressive theatrical performances inspired by the period during WWII when members of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) "manned" Fort Scratchley. For many of these young women, the opportunity to experience life outside the home and make a contribution to the war effort shaped their lives and the lives of Australian women in years to come.

"We did a good job, the girls, we really did. Everyone thought we were marvellous, the way we coped. It's amazing what you can do, even if you've never had any training. I thought when I came back things would be different. But you know what men are like, they didn't even want women taking their jobs, even though we did the jobs better than the men did half the time. I was a Sergeant at Fort Scratchley, but after the war I went home, and life went on just the same. But I was a Gun-Sergeant. If I'd been able to go to Canberra for Officer Training, I'd have had quite a high rank by now."

- Dorothy MacDonnell (nee Tutt), interviewed by Amy Hardingham 2015

Manning the Fort was delivered in collaboration with Flipside Youth Dance and the Fort Scratchley Historical Society. The show was the result of 18 months research and writing conducted by Amy Hardingham, and 6 months intensive developing and rehearsing from 50 performers aged 8-26 years, 14 professional artists and technicians; including 4 directors, 3 choreographers, 3

composers, and 2 costume designers (with 65 costumes being in the show)!

Manning the Fort was praised by audiences and critics alike with Huw Jones receiving Best Sound Design, Lyndon Buckley Best Lighting Design, and Cadi McCarthy and Marnie Palomares from Catapult Dance / Flipside Youth Dance receiving Excellence by a Choreographer for Manning the Fort at the City of Newcastle Drama Awards 2016.

Special thank you to Arts NSW, Civic Venues City of Newcastle, Fort Scratchley Historical Society, Hunter Business Lions Club, University of Newcastle, Newcastle Region Library Local Studies Unit, Monash University, Stockton Historical Society, Pamela Tokarcyzk and Marguerite Edwards, daughters of Dorothy McDonnell for providing access to photos, letters and documents.

Total number of attendees: 526



**Director / Producer /** Choreographer / Film Designer

Cadi McCarthy **Choreographers** Marnie Palomares, Rhiannon Newton Photographer Jessica Coughlan **Composers** Zackari Watt and James Maher Costumes Katrina Raynor **Emerging Artists** Emily-Kate Watts, Katrina McLardy, Emma Boertje, Francesca Gozdek Performers Amelia Denholm & Madeleine Denholm, Emily-Kate Watts, Katrina McLardy, Emma Boertje, Ruby Bickford, Emma Boertje, Jasmin Boyd, Lily Bowsie, Kaleisha Brown, Meghann Burton, Paige Carr, Angel Johns, Lily McKendry, Chloe Musgrave, Tiffani Musgrave, Hannah O'Neill, Inde Raynor, Emily-Kate Watts

#### TANTRUM YOUTH ARTS CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW

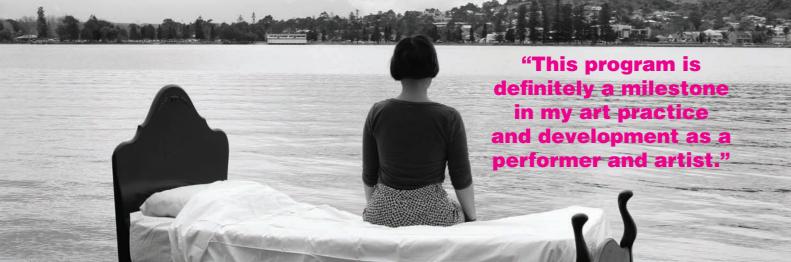
Writer / Producer Amy Hardingham Site Directors Lucy Shepherd, Tamara Gazzard, James Chapman **Technical Manager and Lighting Designer** Lyndon Buckley Sound Designer Huw Jones Voiceover Recording / **Editing James Chapman Singing Arrangements / Direction** Marjorie Butcher **Costumes** Victoria Phyllis and Kaswyn Hunt Hair and Makeup Kaswyn Hunt Costume and Props Assistant Harley Hunt Makeup / Production Assistance Clare Spitzkovsky Video Projection James Edwards Photography and Graphic Design Claire Albrecht Stage and Crew Manager Kate Fincher Site Crew Jake Cragg, Emma Hopkins, Abraham Britz, Jonah Richards, Isis Leaver Front of House Brandon McIntosh, Mardi Ryan Cast Rose Villari, Lucy Taylor, Meghan Mills, Alex Mangano, Conagh Punch, Shannon Daley, Sofie Dennis, Ella Hall, Alice Hallott, Georgina Roach, Bronte Ryan-Webster, Olivia March, Isaac Harley, Summer Kelso, Laura Kuras, Keltan O'Shea, Briella Rapley, Abbi McMaster, Ana Neale, Ronan O'Donoghue, Asha Osborne, Arden Saunders-Wilcox, Pippi Shaw, Elizabeth Wood, Clancy Byles, Elissa Shand, Marjorie Butcher

Special thanks to voiceover artists Barbara Heaton, Nola

Wallace, Jenni Hayes, Chloe McKinnon



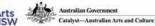
## 2016 Other Projects



### **Trajectory: Emerging Artist Initiative**











In 2016, Tantrum launched Trajectory, our Emerging Artists Initiative. Trajectory is a suite of programs designed to provide clear and supported pathways for emerging artists in the region to develop professional careers.

Trajectory encompasses three new programs:

The **Trajectory Ensemble** is an annual program of professional development for emerging artists interested in process-driven performance making. Each year the ensemble works with a professional artist to create and present a daring, brand new contemporary performance work. In 2016, the ensemble worked with performance artist Lottie Consalvo and over the course of 6 months developed individual performance works for three separate events: Tantrum's 40th Birthday event, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery's 20th Anniversary celebration for the iconic Sculpture Garden, and Crack Theatre Festival as part of This is Not Art. In 2016 there were 7 ensemble members who participated in over 80 hours of professional and creative development workshops with Lottie, and collectively developed 18 brand new contemporary performance art works.

Our **Trajectory Masterclass** series brings established, professional artists and industry leaders to Newcastle to provide high quality

professional development and training for young people, emerging artists and current practitioners. In 2016 Tantrum hosted two master classes, the first with acclaimed theatre maker David Williams (formerly of version 1.0) on Documentary Theatre, and the second with professional actor Angie Diaz on Physical Approaches to Text.

The Trajectory Residency provides space, time and mentorship to Newcastle's most exciting emerging artists to develop their own new work. In 2016 Tantrum awarded the residency to Ethan Andrews, a young emerging artist from Singleton in the Upper Hunter. Ethan utilised his residency to develop a new solo work The Youngest I am Ever Going to Be, which was an intimate and comedic storytelling performance about coming of age in a country town. Through Tantrum's ongoing partnership with Crack Theatre Festival, Ethan had the opportunity to present a work-indevelopment showing as part of the festival in October 2016. Ethan was mentored during his residency by professional theatre director and performer Phil Spencer.

The Trajectory program is made possible through multi-year funding from the Ian Potter Foundation and Catalyst - Australian Arts and Culture Fund. Special thanks to Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery for their support of the Trajectory Ensemble.





### Hissyfest

Hissyfest is a dynamic and diverse festival of original ten-minute plays. Now in its fourth year, it brings together young, emerging, and independent writers, directors and actors. In 2016 Hissyfest was themed Out of Place and investigated the different mental, emotional and physical aspects of being or feeling out of place in an entertaining evening of comedy, drama and the absurd.

Hissyfest was produced by Tantrum's Teaching Artist James Chapman, and engaged approximately 65 participants as writers, directors, actors and crew, the largest number of participants to date. Additionally an emerging visual designer was employed to create a series of animations used throughout the show, and the role of an emerging producer was introduced to give an emerging artist experience in producing.

This year's focus was on collaboration, with writers, directors and actors being given many opportunities to work together as part of a collective, rather than in ten separate teams. Workshops in writing, directing and acting facilitated this cohesive production and were delivered by Tristram Baumber, Amy Hardingham and Lucy Shepherd. The result was a highly supportive and well executed series of short plays. Hissyfest was performed at the Civic Playhouse, 18-19 November. *Hissyfest* 2016 was supported by Arts NSW and Catalyst – Australian Arts and Culture Fund.



### Stories Come Alive, Class Clowns, Play in a Day, and Love Bites

The creative partnership between Newcastle Region Library and Tantrum Youth Arts continued into 2016 and saw us rebrand the Wacky Wombat program to Stories Come Alive, better reflecting the shows' content and innovative, contemporary appeal. Tantrum continued to employ an emerging artist to devise and present this early childhood program across Newcastle Region Library branches throughout the year, bringing stories to life for pre-schoolers through performance, creative play, song and dance. For the fourth year running, Tantrum hosted the Melbourne Comedy Festival's Class Clowns comedy heat, bringing young comedians from Newcastle and the Hunter together to compete in Melbourne Comedy Festival's annual event. Tantrum Youth Arts delivered three Play in A Day workshops for Arts Upper Hunter, visiting High Schools in Merriwa, Dungog and Gloucester. We also delivered the creative component for the Love Bites program, a respectful relationships education program that focuses on the development of respectful relationships and violence prevention for 15 to 17 year olds at three Upper Hunter High Schools. Love Bites is delivered by NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect).

### **Opening Doors**

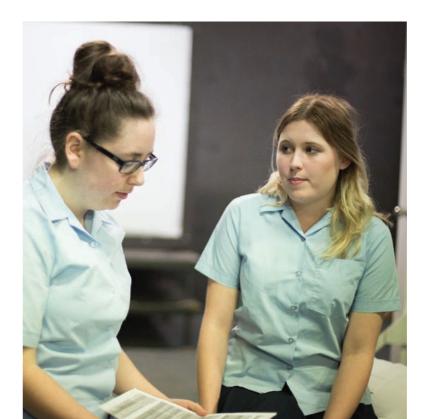
Opening Doors, is an interactive touring performance for schools which aims to educate and empower young people with increased knowledge and understanding of the causes and impacts of domestic violence and the avenues of support available to them if they are experiencing issues at home.

Opening Doors consists of a performance and Q&A presented by professional actors and supported by input from police officers, solicitors, counsellors and support service providers. The performance is interactive and directly engages students in a conversation about the situations portrayed in the play and provides them with the opportunity to actively problem-solve throughout.

Tantrum has been delivering this project in partnership with Co-operative Legal Service Delivery in the Hunter-Central Coast region since 2013. It was written and directed by Tamara Gazzard, and is performed by a team of professionally employed Tantrum emerging artists.

In 2016, Tantrum successfully secured funding from the James N Kirby Foundation and the NIB Foundation to present 6 performances of *Opening Doors* in schools and a further 10 performances at the Blackbox Theatre throughout Terms 2 and 3.

Feedback collected from our 2016 season of *Opening Doors* demonstrates an ongoing need for this project, and Tantrum continues to actively seek funders to support further presentations of this program in schools in 2017 and beyond.



#### **Mapping the Lake**

The creative development for *Mapping the Lake* commenced in Term 4 in 2016. Mapping the Lake is Tantrum's upcoming multi-arts, site-specific production to be performed in the garden and foreshore of Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, delivered in partnership with Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. Visual Artist Alice Ropata visited Valentine Public School to deliver a series of mixed-media, self portrait workshops with 22 students from Years 3-5. The artworks will be installed as part of the production in April 2017. Lucy Shepherd visited Toronto High School weekly during sport time to deliver a series of devising workshops with 22 high school students from Years 7-10. The work collaboratively devised will be performed as part of the production early next year. Open auditions were held in December at the Gallery and attracted over 40 young people.



## After-School and Holiday Workshop Program

Tantrum's after-school Creative Drama Workshop Program continued to engage young people K-12 in collaborative and inclusive theatre making processes. We also expanded our program to include a weekly Performance Studio, catering for those up to 21 years of age, wanting to attend weekly drama workshops after leaving school. Workshop participants performed a series of comical and heart-warming stories about Changing the World at the end of year showcase, held at the Civic Playhouse on 20 November. Tantrum's Teaching Artists James Chapman and Samantha Sutton taught workshops. In the April school holidays Tantrum ran a four-day workshop for students in Years 3-6 called The Wasteland. The workshop was held at the Hunter Wetlands Centre and taught skills in devising, storytelling, writing and performance.



# **2016** Financial Report

### **Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.**

#### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the **Financial Year Ended 31 December 2016**

		<b>2016</b> \$	2015 \$
	_		
Grant & workshop income	2	286,397	217,330
Other income	2	45,630	69,487
Artist fees, salaries and employee benefits		(239,924)	(212,078)
Depreciation expense	3	(1,334)	(1,347)
Administration expenses		(24,611)	(18,183)
Occupancy expenses		(5,451)	(18,626)
Audit of the financial report	3	(2,299)	(2,088)
Other production costs		(59,783)	(28,579)
Sundry expenses		(2,052)	(894)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax	-	(3,427)	5,022
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	(3,427)	5,022
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	- -	(3,427)	5,022

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

2

### **Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.**

#### Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2016

	_	<b>2016</b> \$	2015 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		104,454	99,237
Trade and other receivables	4	4,335	4,346
Other current assets	5	10,643	4,869
Total current assets	_	119,431	108,452
Non-current assets			
Plant & equipment	6	2,824	4,160
Total non-current assets		2,824	4,160
TOTAL ASSETS	_	122,256	112,612
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	22,375	16,119
Other liabilities	8	85,000	76,666
Employee entitlements	9	11,176	12,697
Total current liabilities		118,551	105,481
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	118,551	105,481
NET ASSETS	_	3,705	7,130
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	10	3,705	7,130
TOTAL EQUITY		3,705	7,130

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.