



Barkly
Regional
Arts

2022

Annual Report

Acknowledgement of Country

Barkly Regional Arts acknowledges the traditional custodians of the Barkly region, both past and present, the Warumungu, Mudburra, Jingili, Wakaya, Wambaya, Waanyi, Walpiri, Warlmanpa, Alyawarr, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye people on whose lands we work. We pay our respects to the Elders of this land, past, present, and emerging.

We further acknowledge the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander art, design, music, and performance as being fundamental to Australian cultural and creative expression. We hold the cultural aspirations and expressions of the Aboriginal artists we work with in the highest esteem and acknowledge the richness they bring to our organisation.



Jessie Beasley on Alyawarr Country, image courtesy of Jesse Marlow (above).
Topsy Steppa Beasley, *Frogholes*, 2023 (cover)

Thanks to Funders

As a not-for-profit organisation, Barkly Regional Arts relies on a variety of funding sources to run its programmes.

The work we do would not be possible without the generous support of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments. Barkly Regional Arts is supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support fund and the Indigenous Languages and Arts program. We are supported by the Northern Territory Government through Arts NT.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners, sponsors, volunteers, staff, and the community for their unwavering support throughout the year. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and laid a solid foundation for a vibrant and inclusive arts scene in our region.



Australian Government
Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support



Australian Government
Indigenous Languages and Arts

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	1
Thanks to Funders	2
Our Story	4
Vision, Purpose, and Goals	4
The Barkly	4
Our Role	4
Delivery Model	5
Our People	7
Chairperson's Report	8
Artistic Report	9
Visual Arts Report	9
Events Report	11
Music Report	12
Operational Report	14
Financial Report	15
Get in touch	16

Our Story

Vision, Purpose, and Values

Vision

The Barkly is a vibrant, thriving, and creative community. Arts programmes positively transform lives.

Purpose

To foster access, development, and recognition of the arts in the Barkly.

Values

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Inclusion

The Barkly

The Barkly region is spread across a vast landscape of 320,000 sq. km consisting of Tennant Creek, eight remote communities and seventy family outstations. Home to sixteen Indigenous language groups, traditional ownership of this area includes the Alyawarr, Binbinya, Gurindji, Jingili, Kaytetye, Mudburra, Ngarnga, Wakaya, Wambaya, Warlmanpa and Warumungu peoples. Many people continue to reside on traditional lands and retain strong connections to Country and culture.

Our role

BRA works in Tennant Creek and surrounding communities to deliver arts programmes to the Barkly's residents.

BRA provides Barkly residents with **access** to the arts through the delivery of sustained visual arts and music programmes in Tennant Creek and surrounding communities along with an annual programme of arts exhibitions, projects, and events.

The visual arts and music programmes are focused on supporting artists as they **develop** their creative practice and move toward artistic excellence.

Our programming of exhibitions and events gives our artists a platform to showcase their work within the Barkly and beyond, creating avenues for **recognition** of arts from the Barkly.

Delivery model

Through our visual arts programme, Winanjikarri Music Centre, and Desert Harmony Festival we offer year-round, sustained creative programmes which deliver on the objectives of access, development, and recognition (fig 1.).

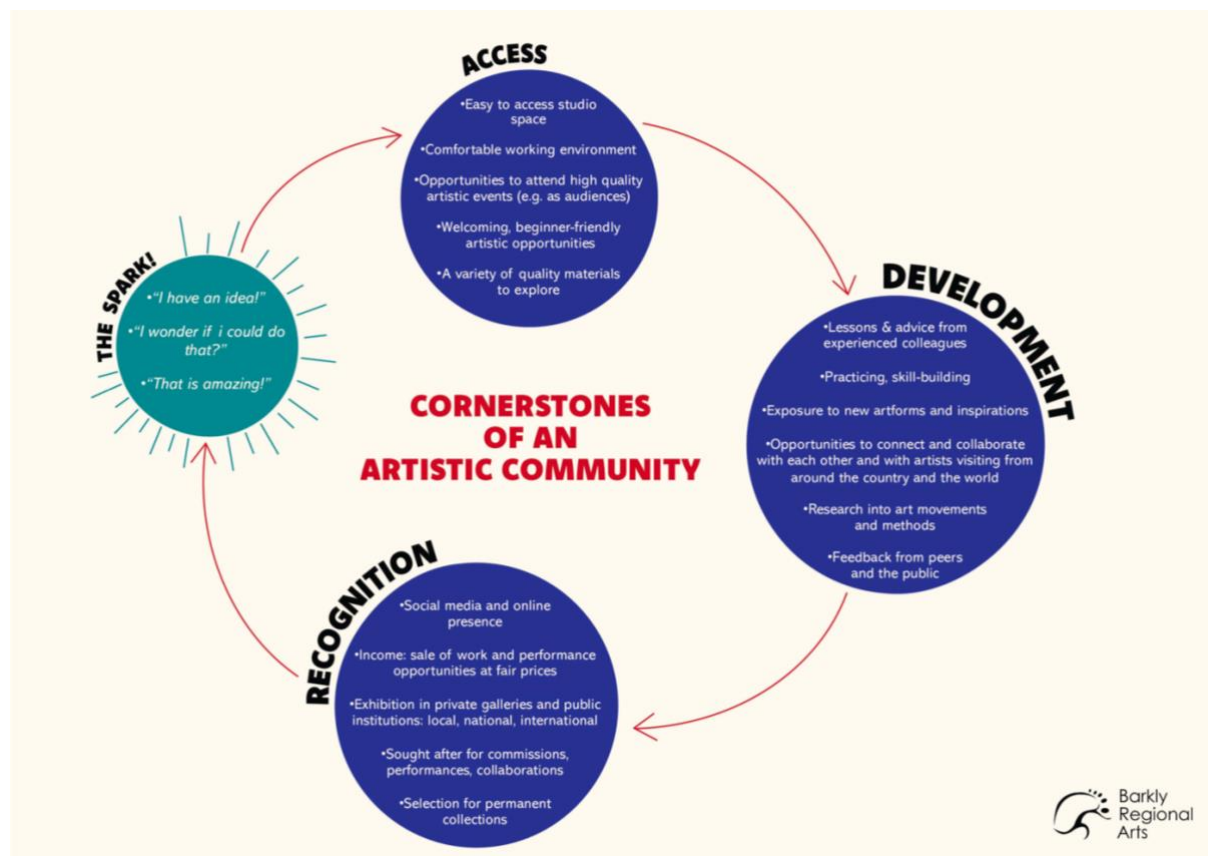


Figure 1. BRA Delivery Model

The **visual arts** programme operates on a hub-and-spoke model, where the hub is located at the BRA studio and gallery in Tennant Creek. From this hub, staff travel to four remote communities (Owairtilla/ Canteen Creek, Wutunugurra/Epenarra, Mungkarta and Elliott) to deliver the visual arts programme. The visual arts programme provides artists with access to studio space and materials, supports the creative development of artists and builds the profile of Barkly artists through the promotion and sale of work. For marketing purposes, the Visual Arts programme community outputs are promoted as 'Artists of the Barkly'.

The **Winanjikari Music Centre (WMC)** works to uphold the cornerstones of a musical community; learning, rehearsal, recording, and performance (fig. 2). The Centre operates an on-site music learning and rehearsal space, two on-site recording studios which have produced many albums by local musicians, maintains and operates a large volume of sound and production gear for festivals and events, and provides full-service production management. The Centre accommodates both Winanjikari Music and Media Mob, enabling staff to work across both operations to enable increased skill development and full-service fee-for-service offerings to clients and the community.

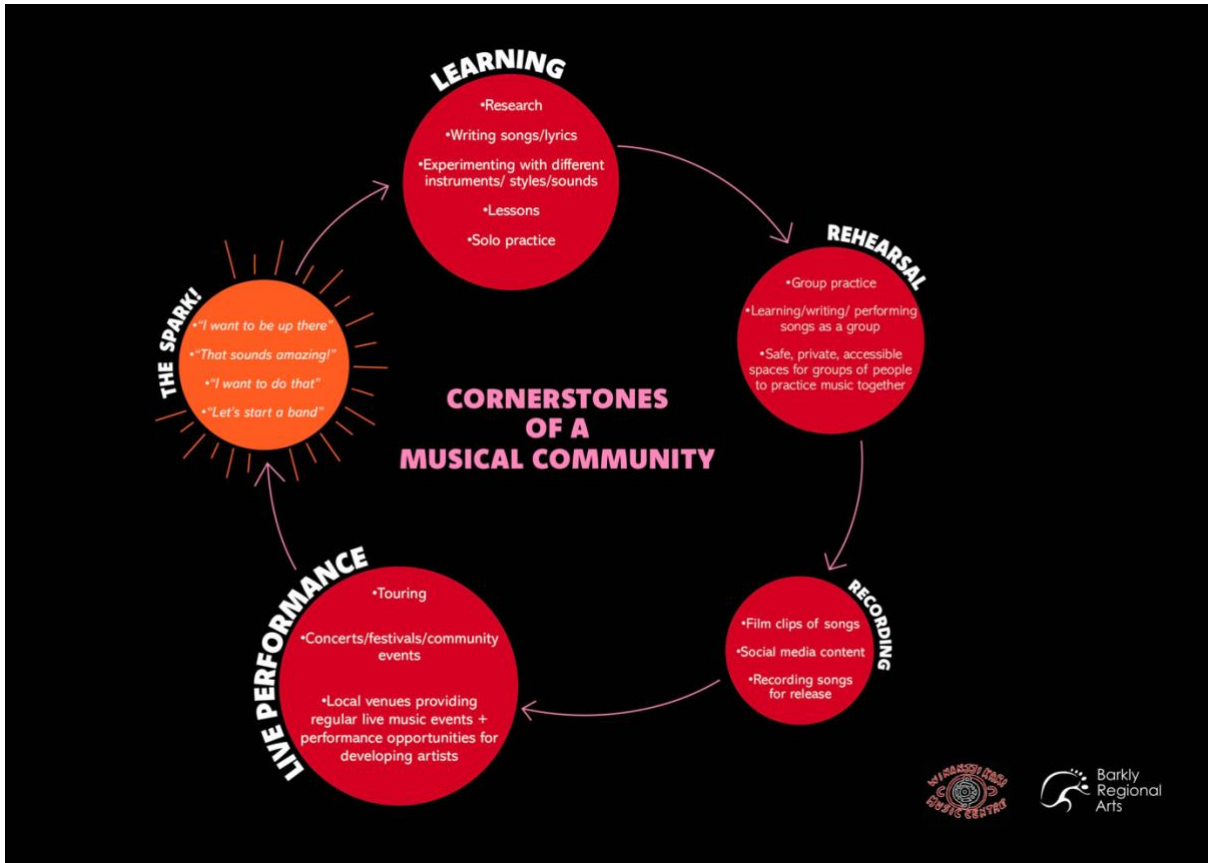


Figure 2. Cornerstones of a Musical Community

Desert Harmony Festival is a multi-day, multi-disciplinary arts event produced by BRA annually. It provides the Barkly community with access to a major arts event while supporting the development and recognition of local artists in providing a platform for performance and mentorship. Desert Harmony Festival attracts an average audience of 2000 people each year, 90% of whom are local to the region.

Our People

Across our Board and staff, we bring together highly collaborative people who share a commitment to bringing the arts to the people of the Barkly. Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members work together at all levels of the organisation. While frequent changes to staffing bodies is a hallmark of Tennant Creek and remote communities generally, all key positions are currently filled.

Board

Brian Coleman
Olivia Vizard
Mackenzie Godson
Elizabeth Storer
Patricia Frank
Rosemary Plummer
Sarah Woodland

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

Staff

Heather Anderson
Julie Beasley
Larry Belton
Laxmi Chhetri
Blake Chitty
Boyd Cook
Mary James
Joey Johnson
Dirk Kelly
Katie Lynch
Sarvika Mishra
Annette Nungala
Reggie O'Riley
Kate Riethmuller
Shauna Upton
Janet Thompson
James Winwood

Tennant Creek Community Liaison
Epenarra Arts Worker
Visual Arts Studio Facilitator
Finance and Administration Officer
Music, Media, and Sound Engineer
Music Centre Trainee
Elliott Arts Workers
Visual Arts Trainee
Sound Engineer
Artistic Director
Communications and Events Officer
Epenarra Arts Worker
Music Producer
Operations Director
Festival Manager
Canteen Creek Arts Worker
Music and Media Manager

Chairperson's Report

Brian Coleman, Chairperson

As Barkly Regional Arts' Chairperson, it is my privilege to present the 2022 annual report.

This has been a remarkable year for our organisation, marked by growth, resilience, and accomplishment as we continue to foster access, development and recognition of arts in the Barkly.

The Artists of Barkly were notably active in 2022, presenting an array of group and solo exhibitions in Darwin, Brisbane, Alice Springs, Sydney, and Perth. We saw a phenomenal 66% increase in year-on-year art sales, reflecting the remarkable talent and dedication of our artists. BRA hosted multiple professional development workshops and an Artist in Residence program, which led to a near doubling of artwork production.

The Winanjikari Music Centre (WMC) has been a driving force in promoting access to music in Tennant Creek and the Barkly, in particular due to the sustained efforts of our longest standing employees Dirk Kelly and Reggie O'Riley. Through workshops, performances, and collaborative projects in schools and communities, WMC have continued to nurture musical talent and cultural expression.

BRA produced and supported a thriving program of local and touring events across Barkly in 2022. Notable events included the inaugural Nguku Water Festival, Territory Day, and our flagship event, Desert Harmony Festival, which collectively attracted thousands of attendees and showcased a rich tapestry of talents and cultures.

From an operational perspective, BRA navigated management changes and faced challenges with staff turnover. The establishment of a collaborative leadership structure has proven to be effective. Our financial performance was closely monitored, and through diligent efforts, we reorganised and streamlined our accounting processes and our auditors have confirmed the financial health of the organisation. We remain in a strong position to meet our financial obligations and continue to deliver on our mission.

Moving forward, BRA will continue to focus on ensuring that artist development and recognition are fostered through strengthened relationships and an expanded network of key industry partners. Moreover, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to enrich the cultural fabric of Tennant Creek and the surrounding areas through our arts and music programs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our committed staff- including those who moved on during the year, dedicated artists, volunteers, and our diverse community whose hard work enabled us to present an ambitious artistic programme. On a personal note, I would like to thank our talented and persistent Board.

The collective dedication and support of the BRA family is immeasurable, and we look forward to continuing our shared mission in the years to come.

Artistic Report

Katie Lynch, Artistic Director

James Winwood, Music Manager

In 2022 Barkly Regional Arts delivered a comprehensive and ambitious Artistic Programme across visual arts, music, and events. The Artistic Programme contributed to access, development, and recognition of arts in the region and reinforced the strength of the organisation's post-pandemic rebuild.

Visual Arts

The Artists of the Barkly presented works in a brimming calendar of group and solo shows.

Group shows and fairs:

Barkly Artists	Japingka Gallery Fremantle
Art on Country: Works from the Barkly	Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre, Tennant Creek
Desert Harmony Art Fair	Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre, Tennant Creek
Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair	Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
Salon de Refuges	Salon Art Projects, Darwin
Desert Mob	Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
Alpeyt Mwerrangker: Good Blossoms	Cooee Art Gallery, Sydney
Warrangi: Hill Country	ArtMob, Hobart
Barkly Artists Christmas Fair	Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre, Tennant Creek

Solo shows:

Lindy Brodie: Still Lifes	Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane
Heather Anderson: Station Scenes	Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane
Faith, Culture, Country: The Art and Life of Susannah Nakamarra Nelson	Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre, Tennant Creek
Ada Beasley	Japingka Gallery Fremantle

Artists travelled to represent the Artists of the Barkly at exhibitions and fairs throughout the year, undertaking trips to Darwin, Alice Springs, Sydney, and Perth.

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin:

Julie Beasley
Pammy Foster
Susie Peterson

Alpeyt Mwerrangker, Sydney

Lorna Corbett
Fiona Corbett

Desert Mob, Alice Springs

Jessie Beasley
Rita Beasley
Annette Nungala
Lynette Bonney
Dalery Brett

Ada Beasley (Solo), Perth

Ada Beasley
Susie Pope

The strength of BRA’s exhibition calendar reflects its growing network of partner galleries who play a crucial role in building recognition for the Artists of the Barkly and provide a valuable sales channel. Art sales were further buoyed by gallery consignments, fair participation, online sales, and studio sales. Artists enjoyed a 66% increase in year-on-year sales in the 2022 calendar year, continuing a growth trend which has seen art sales increase by 652% since the 2020 calendar year.¹



Lorna Corbett at the opening of *Alpeyt Mwerrangker: Good Blossoms* at Cooee Gallery in Sydney.



Susie Peterson on Alyawarr Country.

In addition to our calendar of exhibitions and fairs, artists participated in multiple professional development workshops throughout the year.

In early 2022 facilitator Marc Gooch travelled to Epenarra for two multi-day painting workshops, Marc developed strong rapport with the artists and supported the development of a large collaborative work.

Mid 2022 saw the return of Barkly Artists Camp after a two-year covid-19 induced hiatus. The camp saw artists from six communities come together for three days of art making from June 21st – 23rd. Artists from Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre, Artists of Ampilatwatja, Artists of the Barkly, and Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre participated in two workshops and four different art-making activities. Artists worked with Claire Freer with whom they made pit-fired ceramics and Caroline Lieber and Varsha Rose with whom they made masks of native birds local to the region.

¹ Sales records show the covid-19 pandemic had no material effect on BRA’s art sales – sales records from the 2020 calendar year are comparable to those 2019, 2018 and 2017 calendar years.

In late 2022, Tanya Hattingh delivered felting workshops in Tennant Creek and Canteen Creek respectively, during which artists made felted bags. Claire Freer returned to Tennant Creek to deliver a ceramics workshop. The workshop activated BRA's ceramics programme and Claire has returned for subsequent workshops since.

Finally, the Artists of the Barkly hosted Melbourne based street-photographer Jesse Marlow as an Artist in Residence, Jesse spent time in Tennant Creek, Canteen Creek, Epenarra and Elliott. Some of the photographs taken during the residency feature bird masks made during Barkly Artists Camp and will appear alongside works by the Artists of the Barkly in an exhibition at Darwin's Coconut Studios in 2023.

An exciting calendar of workshops, exhibitions, and events along with record sales has seen unprecedented engagement in BRA's visual arts programme - artwork production has nearly doubled, and the art centre continues to attract new participants of all ages.

As the Visual Arts Programme grows, BRA needs to focus on ensuring that artist development and recognition are fostered through strengthened relationships and an expanded network of key industry partners, including galleries, fairs, peak industry bodies and artist facilitators.

Events

Barkly Regional Arts produced and supported a thriving programme of local and touring events across the Barkly throughout 2022. Highlights of the year's events programme included Elliott's inaugural Nguku Water Festival, the return of Territory Day and BRA's flagship event, Desert Harmony Festival.

Nguku Water Festival

BRA worked with musician and Mudburra Elder Ray Dimikarri Dixon, the Arid Lands Environmental Centre, and the Elliott community to deliver the inaugural Nguku Water Festival. The day began with dyeing and carving workshops delivered in collaboration with Elliott School followed by an evening of performances by Ray Dixon, Eleanor Dixon, Warren H Williams, and the Barkly Drifters. The festival drew a large crowd of locals and visitors alike and will return to Elliott in 2023.

Territory Day

In 2022 BRA once again partnered with NT Major Events Company to deliver Tennant Creek's Territory Day celebrations. Newboys Band, Desert Eagles and MB Reggae performed for an audience of over 1000 people who showed up for local music and fireworks - despite what were unseasonably cold and rainy conditions.

Desert Harmony Festival

The successful staging of Desert Harmony Festival was one of the standout achievements of 2022. The festival brought together over 100 musicians and artists from diverse backgrounds

and attracted an audience of over 2000 people. The festival serves as a vibrant platform for showcasing local talent, fostering cultural exchange, and building community cohesion. Spanning four days, the festival included a variety of satellite events, workshops and music events. A variety of genres, styles, sounds and languages were showcased by some of Australia's greatest entertainers, along with local musicians and artists. Acts included Kasey Chambers, Olive Knight, Warren H Williams, Eastern Arrernte Band the Barkly's own Desert Eagles and Newboys Band. The event was an enormous success and a tribute to the hard work, skill, and passion of BRA's staff.



Jallajjrpa Band playing at Desert Harmony Festival 2022, image courtesy of MeThinks Media.

Music

Throughout 2022 Winanjjikari Music Centre (WMC) has strived to promote access to music in Tennant Creek and the broader Barkly region while supporting the development and recognition of local musicians and communities.

WMC continued its commitment to providing music education and engagement opportunities to remote schools in the region. Our outreach efforts extended to schools in Elliott, Ampilatwatja, Tennant Creek, and Canteen Creek. Through workshops, performances, and collaborative projects, we aimed to nurture musical talent and inspire the next generation of musicians. One notable collaboration saw Australian music icons Coloured Stone embark on an exciting venture with the WMC team to create new music with schools in Ampilatwatja and Canteen Creek. This collaboration enabled students to work alongside experienced musicians, fostering creativity, cultural expression, and the preservation of Indigenous music traditions.



The Newboys, image courtesy of MeThinks Media.

The year witnessed notable music releases by talented artists with strong links to Winanjjikari Music Centre. Harold Dalywaters and The Newboys both released their works, to positive acclaim. The Newboys' release achieved remarkable success, amassing over 2 million views on social media and gaining airplay on prestigious platforms such as 8CCC Community Radio, Triple J, Radio National, Double J, and numerous local community radio stations.

WMC maintained its dedication to supporting the community through our AV production services. This included providing technical support for community events, conferences, gatherings, as well as aiding families in organising funerals and memorial services. We are proud to have played a role in enhancing the quality and impact of these important community occasions.

To increase engagement within music, we initiated the creation of a new music learning space. This dedicated area provides an inviting environment for individuals of all ages to explore their musical talents. Additionally, we expanded our music learning services to offer a broader range of opportunities for aspiring musicians to develop their skills.

As we look ahead to the coming year, our focus remains on creating greater access and opportunities for young people to engage in music. We will continue to support and nurture existing musicians, seeking to provide them with the resources and spaces necessary to perform, rehearse, and record their work. Through our ongoing commitment to music and community, we aim to enrich the cultural fabric of Tennant Creek and the surrounding areas.

Operational Report

Kate Riethmuller, Operations Director

In 2022 BRA successfully navigated several changes to its management and staffing structure. Andrew Wright resigned as EO in the first half of the year. The organisation experienced difficulties recruiting a suitable person for the role. In response, the Board established a collaborative leadership structure which saw the responsibilities of the EO position split between an Artistic Director, responsible for the delivery of artistic programming and an Operations Director, responsible for operational management.

Otherwise, staff positions remained mostly filled throughout the year. High rates of staff turnover are a familiar challenge for organisations operating in Tennant Creek, this has been exacerbated by the pandemic and ongoing negative press coverage of Tennant Creek and the wider Northern Territory.

The transient nature of the town means high staff turnover is an ongoing operational challenge for BRA, making effective succession planning an important focus for the organisation. To this end, rented homes were secured to house two members of management staff during 2022, contributing to the retention of key personnel. Long term, the organisation will look to purchase suitable accommodation to house staff in key positions. We believe this will assist with attracting and retaining staff.

Consultants Caroline Lieber, Erica Izett and Susan Congreve supported the Artistic Director and the Operations Director throughout the year. This support has allowed the leadership team to grow in their roles and tackle difficult situations head on. BRA has been fortunate to establish strong relationships with skilled industry professionals, the continuation of these relationships will benefit BRA into the future.

In October, an MoU was established between 8CCC Community Radio and BRA which saw the formalisation of our relationship and aimed to establish a full-time role shared between BRA (Multimedia Coordinator) and 8CCC (Community Radio Coordinator). Efforts to recruit a Multimedia and Community Radio Coordinator will take place in 2023.

BRA remained committed to the continuous professional development of our staff throughout 2022. Our team members honed their skills and expanded their service capabilities through targeted training programs and workshops.

BRA maintained and strengthened its relationships with funders throughout 2022. BRA is fortunate to have funding support from the NT and Commonwealth governments, BRA's funders are the linchpin of its operational functionality and programme delivery. Strong relationships with funders are therefore crucial to the organisations' success and longevity. The organisation is further bolstered by our network of partner organisations such as NT Major Events Company, Desart, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation, MusicNT and Barkly Regional Council.

Financial Report

A major tidy-up and reorganisation of BRA's accounts was a primary focus for the organisation's accounting and finance team in 2022. Accounts Plus More were contracted as external accounts, the Accounts Plus More team worked closely with Operations Director and Finance Officer to resolve numerous bookkeeping issues which were hindering BRA's auditing and reporting processes. After considerable effort, the accounts and accounting system are in a strong position.

Our Auditors, Basso Newman have given BRA a qualified audit report that states our money story is a good one with no concerns around income and expenditure.

As of 31st December 2022, BRA has:

Generated a deficit of \$ -84,041	Income: \$1,978,446 less Expenditure: \$2,058,876
Net Assets of \$713,647	Assets \$1,382,880 less Liabilities \$669,233
Uncommitted cash of \$104,141	Cash at bank \$773,374 less Money Owing \$669,233 (grant income dedicated to programme delivery)
Current Ratio is 1.43	Current Assets \$959,118 divided by Current Liabilities \$669,233

The Current Ratio indicates that for every \$1 of current liabilities (short term debt) the Corporation has \$1.43 current assets (short term assets), indicating that BRA can pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Get in touch

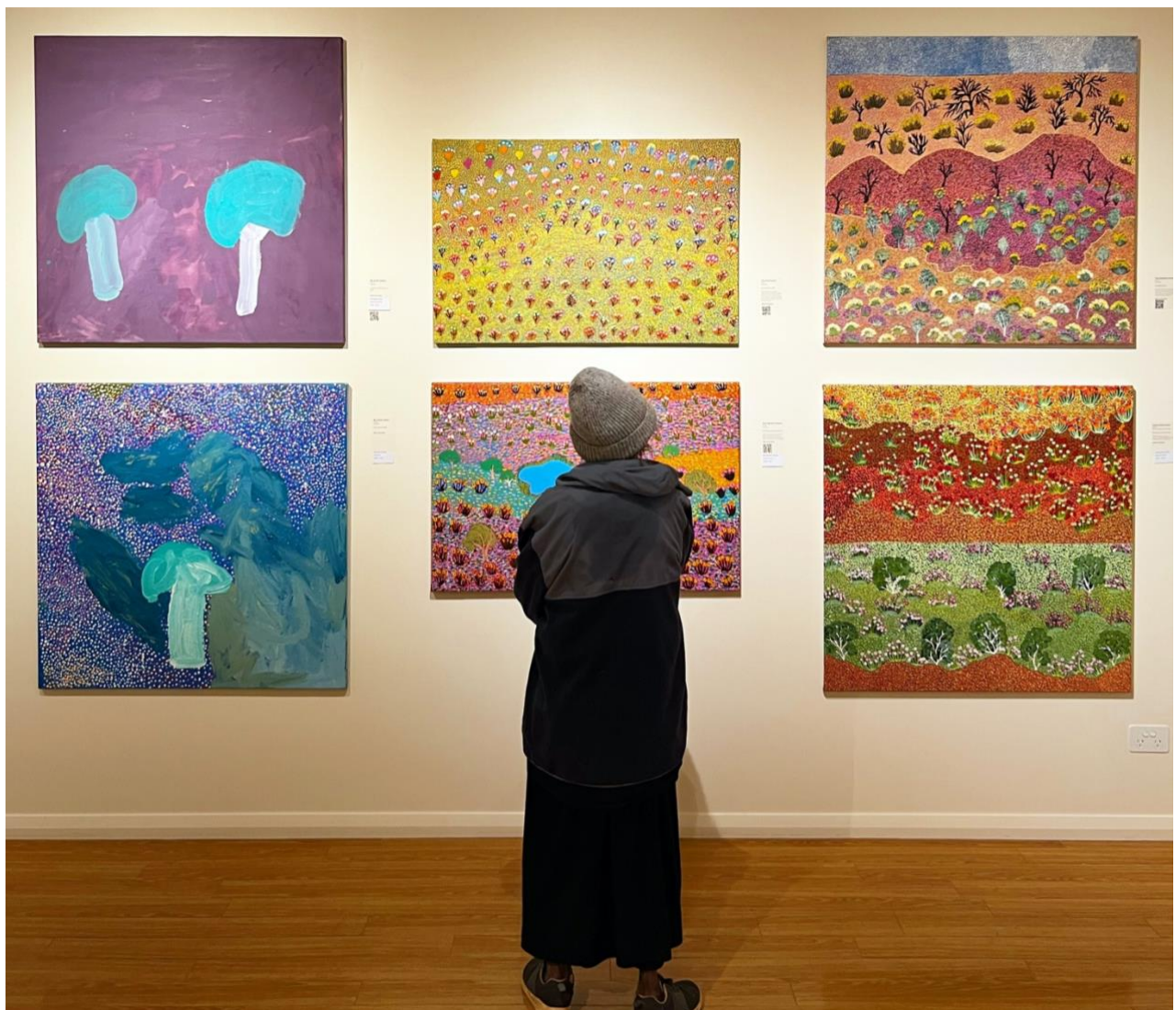
Address: 65 Staunton Street, Tennant Creek, 0860. Northern Territory

Phone: 08 8962 299

Email: admin@barklyarts.com.au

Website: www.barklyarts.com.au | www.artistsofbarkly.com.au

Social Media: @barklyregionalarts | @artistsofbarkly



Rita Beasley at Desert Mob 2022.