

INDIGENOUS
ART CENTRE
ALLIANCE

IACA

Annual Report
2019 - 2020



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Install shot of Hopevale Arts and Cultural Centre lightboxes in the Endeavour Voyage exhibition at the National Museum of Australia. Image: NMA

Cover: Lawrence Burke working on his ceremonial body painting design. During the Belonging arts development workshop at MI Art, Mornington Island, May 2019.

IACA programs and events receive financial assistance from the Queensland Government’s Arts Queensland Backing Indigenous Arts initiative, from the Federal Government’s Ministry for the Arts, through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program and Indigenous Languages and Arts program, and the Australia Council for the Arts. IACA supports the Indigenous Art Code.

All images are taken by IACA staff unless otherwise stated.



Presidents Report

Phil Rist
IACA President 2019/20

2019/20 has been such a mixed year. The first six months of the year IACA was traveling really well with facilitated workshops in painting, ceramics, photography and film. IACA artists produced stunning work and really enjoyed the challenge of using new materials and mediums under the guidance of experts Edwina Circuit, Curtis Taylor and Rebecca Dagnall. The Art Fairs in Cairns and Darwin went really well and we were able to dispense with the subsidised DAAF booth as all art centres were now able to fund and manage their own, thanks to prior exposure and IACA assistance. We also had a deadly conference at the end of October up at Mossman Gorge. We were able to explore that awesome country on the Ngadiku Dreamtime tour with local Kuku Yalanji guides, and have hearty discussions on a large array of topics in the formal training sessions.

Then along came COVID-19 and all plans changed. IACA delivered their industry training this year in 14 very successful workshops delivered via Zoom. These were well attended, and recorded and stored for later viewing for anyone who missed out or wanted to review them later. IACA's very practical approach providing online training to its members has worked well, enabling them to learn new things and have the time to implement new skills at their art centres.

IACA also provided much-needed moral support, connection and assistance checking in with all member art centres twice weekly, every week. IACA worked hard successfully advocating to secure extra funds for these organisations from both the Federal and State Government (Arts QLD) to help mitigate the loss of sales that were to be inevitable due to the pandemic. IACA member art centres are very grateful for these additional funds allowing their organisations to keep functioning through the economic downturn

brought on by public health restrictions and the resultant lack of sales outlets. The advocacy work IACA has done to provide extra funds for art centres has been amazing and so gratefully received.

We are incredibly thankful that all our artists have remained well and not one case of COVID-19 has been reported in any QLD Indigenous Communities.

Into the future I believe the landscape has changed forever. We are still not sure how that will all look when this disease is gone but we are an adaptive and resilient mob; we've been adapting for thousands of years and I think the future is bright. I hope we can learn from this time, take the good and make change, especially regarding the environment. There will be some pain, but we need to be innovative and embrace the change that needs to occur.

Phil Rist is the current President of the IACA Management Committee, he is also the Executive Officer of the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation. Phil is a widely respected Nywaigi leader whose skill and determination has played a key role in establishing the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation as one of the most successful Indigenous community-based organisations in Australia.

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Managers Report

Pam Bigelow,
IACA Manager since 2012

What a year!! During the second half of 2019 and in early 2020 our arts facilitator Edwina Circuitt worked hard to finalise all the Belonging workshops, together with Rebecca Dagnall and Curtis Taylor who finished the film and photography workshops in the Torres Strait. Over 400 stunning individual artworks, photographs and short films are now stored in a climate-controlled facility in Cairns, waiting for the COVID-19 dust to settle and to see how the exhibition plans at the NMA evolve. We had expected that all works would be in Canberra and the valuations complete by now, but as the whole planet knows all plans have been tossed asunder with the pandemic. The NMA was closed for five months, reopening in July to launch the Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians exhibition, which featured artworks developed in IACA-facilitated workshops at three IACA art centres: Yarrabah, Hopevale and Bana Yirriji. We wait while Australia's major institutions grapple with funding and planning for the future and the implications for public institutions of the lockdowns and restrictions.

We obtained funding to produce the comprehensive exhibition catalogue we have planned for the upcoming Belonging exhibition but again, we can't move forward until we have confirmed dates. In the meantime, we were successful in obtaining grant funds from the Australia Council for the Arts to run an artworker training program via digital delivery (COVID-proof) for a year. The IACA Indigenous Artworker Program (IIAP) will commence in September 2020.

Every year we provide support at CIAF and DAAF, running an industry stall which receives an enormous amount of interest in our member art centres. Our Artists Welcome event held before CIAF 2019 opened was a great success and well attended. Here DR Ian Coates from the NMA officially announced the IACA NMA partnership and dates for the 2021 Belonging exhibition against a backdrop of the incredibly popular Belonging Preview projection that ran over five days before and during CIAF 2019.

Before the world ground to a halt IACA held its second Members Conference of 2019 at the Mossman Gorge

Centre on the traditional lands of the Kuku Yalanji people. The event began with a Kuku Yalanji Welcome to Country on the banks of the Mossman river. Delegates were treated to a Ngadiku Dreamtime tour by local Kuku Yalanji guides, which explored special places and culturally significant sites in Mossman Gorge, traditional bush food sources, and included demonstrations on traditional plant use and ochre paint. The conference agenda was jam-packed and included updates from Arts Queensland, as well as a CIAF strategic planning consultation session. Guest speakers included Rebekah Butler of Museums & Galleries Queensland, Steven Ducksbury from the North Queensland Land Council, Patricia Adjei from the Australia Council for the Arts, and Claire Summers and Mandy Tripcony from the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation. An amazing final presentation on the IACA Northern Disclosure workshops was held by Curtis Taylor and Rebecca Dagnall. Everyone enjoyed the chance to see Curtis Taylor's powerful, award-winning short film Yulubidi - Until the End. Edwina Circuitt gave a stunning wrap-up of the IACA Belonging workshops which have been held over the past six months, and the Cultural Connections partnership with the National Museum of Australia. Finally, the IACA Members Meeting and AGM took place, where the existing Management Committee was re-elected with the addition of Margaret Mara from Wei'num Aboriginal Art Centre.

We cancelled our normal three-day April conference and instead offered a series of 14 Zoom training sessions from April to July, delivering training to upskill our members in a variety of areas that would be vital to art centres transitioning to an online sales world. Sessions included digital sales and marketing; art and portrait photography; wills; licensing and contracts; developing your brand; video recording; an update from Arts QLD and CIAF; SAM training; statistics and how to use them in your business; stocktaking and studio tips; NorthSite Contemporary Arts update; and a virtual tour of Bulmba-ja.

Pam Bigelow
IACA Manager

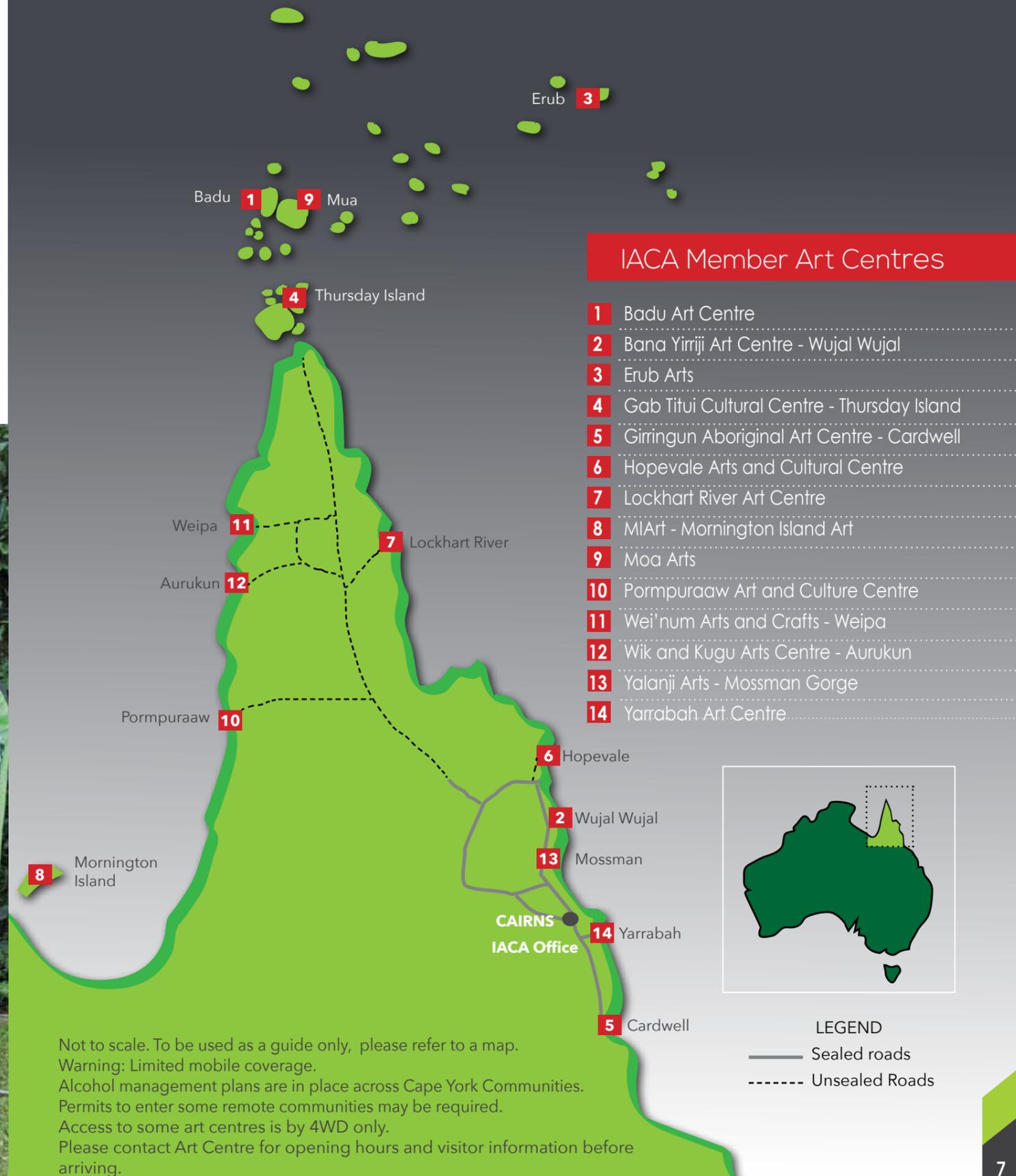
History

In 2010, the Queensland Government funded a consultation process with art centres from across FNQ to determine the feasibility of a peak body for the region. A second stage consultation was undertaken in 2011, securing funding for the establishment of the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance (IACA) from both the Federal Office for the Arts and Arts Queensland. Later that year the IACA Advisory Group was elected, representing a mix of artists and managers from their respective art centres. In 2012, Pam Bigelow was appointed as IACA Manager and built the operating framework of IACA. In 2013, IACA was incorporated under the State Associations Act, and currently has both Deductible Gift Recipient and Charitable status.

IACA Members Conference delegates at Mossman Gorge, Oct 2019



IACA Members Map



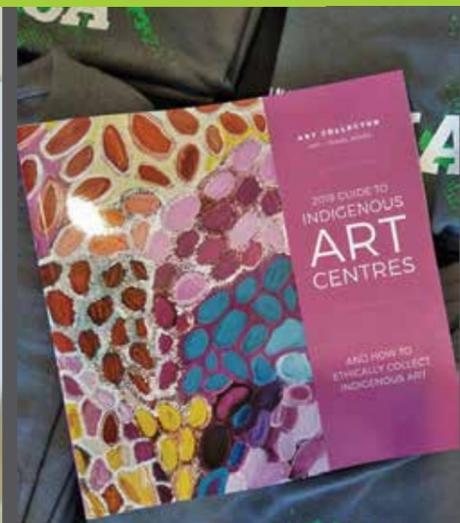
Service Delivery



IACA staff Fiona Price and Maxine See Kee modelling the IACA T-Shirt at CIAF 2019.



IACA back page advertisement of the CIAF 2019 Special Edition Art Collector program



IACA sponsored 2019 Art Collector Guide to Indigenous Art Centres



Project Coordinator Geraldine Henrici at CIAF 2019 IACA industry booth.



IACA Manager Pam Bigelow at DAAF 2019 IACA industry booth

Art Centre Support

IACA's role is to provide ongoing support, training, opportunities and advocacy for its members. Unlike other well-funded organisations, we do not have a high-profile gallery space, nor do we represent or sell our members work - this is not our purpose. As such we highly value the opportunity this report gives us to clearly communicate our work, our vision and our contribution as a peak body of Indigenous art.

Recruitment Assistance

IACA offers full recruitment services to member art centres. Support includes advising Boards and governing entities of best practice recruitment processes; developing position descriptions; advertising via ArtsHub and art centre professional networks; evaluating applicants; sitting on interview panels; the provision of binding legal employment contracts; and providing induction, on-site training, hot desk support and site visits to support new staff members.

In late 2019, IACA assisted Yalanji Arts to recruit temporary manager Lisa Clarke. IACA then worked with Lisa and Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation to hold our October Conference at Mossman Gorge Centre and visit the art centre. Lisa had worked as the manager at Moa Arts in 2018 and was thrilled to help fill a gap

for Yalanji Arts until a permanent manager could be found.

Membership Communication and Mentoring

IACA issues monthly e-bulletins which provide members with a wrap-up of arts industry information, funding opportunities, competitions, grants, exhibitions, consultation, IACA activity, information and service updates.

IACA staff regularly visit the art centres to provide mentoring and business advice to art centre managers, drawing from its network of industry experts and service organisations when this support is required. During 2019/20 IACA staff visited Giringun, Bana Yirriji, Hopevale, Wik and Kugu, Yalanji Arts, Wei'num Arts & Crafts, Moa Arts, Erub Arts and Yarrabah art centres. Art centre visits came to an abrupt stop when COVID-19 restrictions came into place limiting all travel from March to July 2020.

The bi-annual IACA Members Conferences are an important forum for members to meet face-to-face, share information and participate in decision-making around the direction, development, growth and promotion of the North Queensland Indigenous art industry. This feeds into the AGM, Members, and Management Committee meetings which coincide with these events.

Member feedback sets the agenda for these conferences each year. Feedback shows that membership presentations continue to be popular, as does the opportunity for members to access guest speakers for expert industry knowledge, team-building and practical skills development.

Supporting Art Fairs – CIAF, DAAF and others

IACA continues to develop its art fair model which successfully drives and extends awareness of Queensland Indigenous art. IACA art centres are relative newcomers to the national Indigenous art landscape with both central and western desert art dominating for 40-plus years.

For IACA members, CIAF and DAAF are excellent opportunities to connect, sell and promote their work, and a platform to launch new artists and styles to collectors. At both CIAF and DAAF, IACA provides on-site support to member art centres including joint promotion strategies, multi-platform social media promotion, logistics, and guidance for new or less confident managers participating in these events. IACA offers practical and logistical support for bump in and bump out, along with artwork storage pre- and post-event. IACA also provides toolkits, organises artwork stretching and framing, and assists with on-call troubleshooting, all of which continue to achieve successful participation for member art centres in these events.

At CIAF 2019, IACA delivered a total of 95 hours of support and training to art centre artworkers, artists and managers. During DAAF 2019, IACA staff provided on-site logistical support, but the previously supplied IACA shared exhibition booth for art centres to trial in a supported environment was no longer needed, as they are now confident to hire their own booths. We have now successfully introduced all our members to DAAF, proudly increasing participation at this fair from two art centres in 2014 to all art centres now regularly attending.

“I just wanted to say a big thank you from all of us at Yalanji Arts for the extraordinary support we received throughout CIAF. The allocation of a support person for the whole of the event was awesome - Fiona and Tam were absolutely amazing. Thank you both very much. I think Fiona may have single-handedly doubled our sales! She was also generous enough to allow us Wi-Fi access through her personal Hotspot when we lost access through ours, which was a lifesaver. Which leads me to Edwina Circuit - who also shared her internet access as well as at least a day of her time doing on-the-job sales training through SAM - brilliant! We could not have done it without all of you. Your help and support without doubt allowed us to achieve what was a really positive and successful CIAF. Thank you all so much.” Leanne Emmet, Yalanji Arts

Service Delivery

Counselling Service

Working and living in remote Indigenous communities provides many wonderful opportunities, however it can also have challenges. Managers and staff working within Indigenous art centres have a high rate of burnout and it is important they have access to appropriate support, services and strategies to manage this. IACA continues to offer a confidential counselling service for all members including four free sessions. The service is frequently accessed and member feedback has been positive from those who have used it.

Storage Facility

Due to the remote locations of art centres and the resulting high cost of transport IACA provides a much needed, secure, off-site storage space in Cairns. This service is used frequently, particularly during art fair season.

Consultants Register

Art centre staff often require access to specialised consultants. IACA has developed a vetted, comprehensive and frequently updated Art Centre Consultants Register. Available on the Members page of the IACA website, the register includes full contact, service and rate details of over 30 consultants and suppliers.

Members area of website

Password protected, this area of the website is an exclusive hub of information accessible to IACA members only. Here members can access over 180 documents including example templates, manuals, guides, advice, checklists, forms and policies. Contact information for key funding bodies, art centres, IACA staff and the IACA management

committee are listed, as are the details of upcoming art fairs, meetings, conferences, workshops and training opportunities. When our training pivoted from a three-day face-to-face conference to 14 online Zoom sessions, we had the perfect place to lodge all those invaluable training videos. If IACA members couldn't view the live Zoom presentations, they could view them at a later time, or review and offer them to their artworkers.

“*Thank you so much for the information ... it was like opening a treasure trove!!!! Grateful thanks.* Valerie Boll Manager, Yarrabah Art Centre

Hot Desk

IACA has a hot desk available for members to use. Conveniently located near Cairns Central at the IACA offices at 16 Scott Street, Parramatta Park, the private hot desk includes a desktop computer, broadband internet, printing and scanning facilities, air conditioning, tea and coffee, kitchen facilities and free off-street parking. Members are also welcome to use the conference room for larger meetings.

Remote IT and SAM Support

IACA provides free remote IT advice, troubleshooting and support via Compnet. As the database designers, CompNet can also consult, troubleshoot, and answer questions around Stories Art Money (SAM).

“*Anything I ask is attended to. A joy to work with.* John Armstrong, Manager Mlart



IACA 2020-2024 Strategic Plan

Vision

Supporting culturally strong best practice Indigenous art enterprises.

Mission

Providing sustainable growth through advocacy and long-term quality support for the development, marketing and promotion of First Nation artists, their culture, and art centres in Far North Queensland.

We do this by: listening, being involved and working with members according to protocols.

To build capacity we:

- seek funding and resources for projects that support best practice and promotes members.

Six Year Strategic Plan

In late 2019 IACA revised the IACA 2016 -21 Strategic plan to cover the period 2020 - 2024. Ratified by the IACA Management Committee and Membership at the IACA October 2019 Conference, the new plan guides IACA activity for the next 5 years. Having achieved almost all the priorities identified in the previous plan, the renewed plan looks at delivering those projects, providing continuing and new services and securing funding for an artworker training program.

- celebrate and promote success and strengths.
- use research as a tool.
- encourage career development and leadership opportunities.
- offer targeted training.
- foster networks and partnerships.

Values

Culture underpins all our work because we:

- nurture a culture of excellence.
- secure and maintain the mandate of members.
- value what people do.
- celebrate the success of others.
- balance cultural obligations and economic goals.
- encourage innovative and bold decision-making.
- ensure we are ethical, accountable and transparent in all our work.

5 Year Strategic Goal Summary

IACA is guided by a strong members' mandate to implement the following goals over the next 5 years:

- Goal 1: Provide high quality services that support excellence in Far North Queensland art centres.
- Goal 2: Provide training and career pathways for IACA artists and art centre staff.
- Goal 3: Successfully advocate for and promote IACA members according to our Mission and Values.
- Goal 4: Maintain a national profile for IACA and grow the sustainability of the Association.

Priorities for 2020 to 2024

1. Artworker and Leadership Program
2. Belonging and Northern Disclosure Exhibition Tour
3. Diversify Funding

COVID-19 Industry Plan for Queensland Indigenous Art Centres

At the request of Arts QLD, IACA developed a Covid-19 Industry Plan for Queensland Indigenous art centres. The Plan is to be used in conjunction with local government management plans and with consideration to all regulations, guidelines and directions of government and public health authorities. The Plan provides a framework and practical guidelines around training & education, limiting visitor access, physical distancing, cleaning and sanitation for Indigenous art and cultural centres. It also includes advice on record keeping for contact tracing and reporting of Covid-19 cases, guidelines for on-site facilities, and checklists for: hygiene and cleaning, physical distancing, deliveries, contractors and visitors attending art centres.

IACA Indigenous Art Centre Highlights and Challenges

IACA Indigenous Art Centre Highlights

- Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre welcomed new manager Joann Russo.
- Yarrabah Art Centre held arts development workshop with NMA for Endeavour Voyage, Sep 2019.
- Wei'Num Arts' first exhibition in 5 years - Heart of Country: New works from West Cape York opened August 2 at Woolloongabba Art Gallery.
- Wik and Kugu Arts Centre dog installation exhibited at the Salon des Refuses exhibition in Darwin. Roderick Yunkaporta and Sabine Hoeng in attendance.
- Pompuraaw Arts attended the Tarnanthi art fair in October.
- Black Square Arts hosted Wei'Num Arts, Wik & Kugu Arts Centre and Badu Art Centre in their booth at Sydney Contemporary.
- Pompuraaw Arts attended Sydney Contemporary works on paper exhibitors.
- Moa Arts Paula Savage exhibited new works on paper at Cross Art Projects, October.
- IACA members Badu Art Centre, Mirndiyin Gununa - Mornington Island, Yarrabah Art Centre, Lockhart River Arts Indigenous Corporation, Pompuraaw Art, Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Moa Arts and Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre attend the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair.
- Mornington Island Art Centre performed at Quadamooka Festival, CIAF and DAAF.
- Hopevale Arts & Culture Centre collaborated with Magpie Goose on fashion launch.
- December 2019 Erub Arts opened exhibition Below the Tide Line at QAGOMA, with artists also giving talks and running workshops.
- October 2019 Wei'num Arts holds Weaving Together project.
- Mornington Island Arts A Place for Dreaming exhibition held at Woolloongabba Art Gallery October -November 2019.
- October 2019 Yarrabah Arts & Culture Centre Darrell Harris & Eric Orcher attended the 2019 Arts Ablaze Regional Arts Conference in Kooralbyn. Contributed to panel discussion with IACA manager Pam Bigelow on 'Indigenous Arts Spaces'.
- Syd Bruce Shortjoe from Pompuraaw Arts & Cultural Centre won the 3D & Sculpture Award at CIAF for his Tiger Prawn ghost net sculpture.
- Hopevale Arts & Culture won CIAF Best Art Centre Award.
- Girringun Aboriginal Arts Centre won CIAF Innovation Award.
- Hopevale Art & Culture Centre designs were showcased at the CIAF Fashion Performance.
- Dorothy Gabori of Mornington Island won the IACA Lucille Osborne Emerging Artist Memorial Fellowship.
- IACA Deputy President Harold Ludwick selected by the NMA for the Encounters Fellowship.



Roderick Yunkaporta and Sabine Hoeng at the Salon des Refuses exhibition in Darwin, August 2019



Syd Bruce Shortjoe from Pompuraaw Arts & Cultural Centre with his prize-winning tiger prawn ghost net sculpture. Image: Pompuraaw Art Centre



New manager Joann Russo with Girringun art centre staff. Image: Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre



Online training via Zoom in 2020

Of course, COVID-19 has been the biggest challenge of 2020; it was a major concern amongst our members that if the virus entered Indigenous communities the consequences would be devastating. Initially our members were very fearful for everyone's welfare, particularly for our older artists. Art centres closed, all travel ceased, and artists worked from home with artworkers delivering materials and collecting finished works. Art fairs CIAF and DAAF decided to go online; it was difficult for IACA member art centres to produce the large body of work they normally do for the art fair season as well as negotiate the new world created by online sales and exhibitions. IACA immediately instituted regular weekly meetings with members over Zoom and opened a private members Facebook page. This proved an effective means to communicate information from government on all COVID restrictions, offer help or share ideas as the months passed by in isolation.

During the lockdown the IACA manager met weekly with government agencies advocating and lobbying them to provide emergency funds for all our members, to help with the loss of sales over the period of lockdown when face-to-face art fairs were cancelled and commercial galleries closed. We are very pleased and grateful to the State and Federal government for their response to our requests for funds to help our members see it through this tough time. We are equally pleased that Qld Indigenous communities have remained safe from COVID-19 with not one case reported. May this continue.



Wei'Num Arts, Wik & Kugu Arts Centre and Badu Art Centre shared booth at Sydney Contemporary, September 2019

Belonging - Contemporary Indigenous Art from Far North Queensland



Artworker Nephi Denham during Belonging Workshop at Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre, March 2020

Belonging and Northern Disclosure arts development workshops

Artists from IACA's member art centres requested IACA procure a grant for a major regional arts development and exhibition project. Funding was secured from the Department of Communications and Arts, Indigenous Languages and Arts Program. In early 2018, the theme 'Belonging' was developed by art centres and artists via a series of intensive workshops with Curator Glenn Iseger-Pilkington. An Indigenous reference group was then formed to ensure the Exhibition Project Team and all IACA members exemplified best practice in the development and provision of the project.

Subsequently, all art centres have participated in the Belonging arts development workshops facilitated by Edwina Circuitt, with Girringun Arts' workshop in early 2020 the last cab off the rank before our world closed down with COVID-19. The workshops have ensured best practice archival materials and equipment have been

used. All 420 of the resulting works are now in climate-controlled storage waiting for the NMA to reschedule the exhibition in light of the COVID-19 travel restrictions, border closures, lockdowns and museum and gallery closures.

'I can't wait to see the exhibition with all this good artwork with powerful stories of belonging to Country.'
Solomon Booth, Moa Arts

'Working closely with IACA and the art centres has been a fantastic experience for the National Museum of Australia and from what we hear, the artists too. Providing access to facilitators such as Edwina and quality materials has been one of the innovative ways we are giving back to community. Not only does this help bring the museum closer together with communities but it also provides a platform for culture and stories to be expressed at National level. It's a win, win situation and we hope to do more of this in the future based on its great success.' Shona Coyne, senior curator NMA

Northern Disclosure: film and photography workshops

As part of the Belonging concept, Northern Disclosure is IACA's film and photographic skills development project. The workshops focused on extending technical skills with the aim of supporting artists to communicate their messages through film and photography, with an additional emphasis on developing creative and conceptual skills. Supporting the creation of innovative new artwork, the project was not about documentary recording but intended to assist the creation of artistic works that share perspectives on life in these remote Indigenous communities in bold new ways.

IACA engaged the services of two professional facilitators: artist and film maker Curtis Taylor and photographic artist Rebecca Dagnall. Over two-week long intensive residencies with artists on-site in each community, the facilitators focused on skills development, experimentation, and exploring the medium of film and photography, including aspects of storyboarding, post-production, editing, and sequencing. Custom-designed to meet the needs of the communities, the four Indigenous-owned art centres who requested and took part in the project were Erub Arts (November 2019), Moa Arts (September 2019), Wei'num Arts & Crafts (June-July 2019) and Badu Art Centre (March 2019). The final outcomes of these workshops will be exhibited as part of the Belonging exhibition.



Facilitator Edwina Circuitt and Artworker Debra Murray, Belonging Workshop at Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre, March 2020



Facilitator Curtis Taylor filming during the Northern Disclosure photography & film workshop at Moa Arts, September 2019



Belonging Workshop at Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre, March 2020



Northern Disclosure artist photography & film workshop at Moa Arts, September 2019

NMA Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians, art development workshops



Lightboxes made during the Endeavour Voyage workshop in Hopevale, September 2019



Endeavour Voyage Arts Development workshop at Bana Yirriji art centre, Wujal Wujal, November 2019



Kurt Kynuna and son during the Endeavour Voyage arts development workshop in Yarrabah, October 2019

Cultural Connections is a project partnership between IACA and the National Museum of Australia (NMA).

Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians is an exhibition exploring stories from the HMS Endeavour's voyage up the east coast of Australia. Presenting both 'the view from the ship and the view from the shore', the exhibition opened online at the NMA in April 2020.

The exhibition was a key outcome of the NMA's Endeavour 250 program which includes three interrelated elements: the Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians exhibition, the Encounters Fellowships and Cultural Connections. As senior NMA Curator Shona Coyne says, 'Nothing speaks more powerfully in an exhibition than the voice of community who are directly related to the story. We know our audiences want to hear the

Indigenous perspective on this story (Cook and the First Nations people) and these artworks are key, in telling it. It's about time this story was told from both sides.'

IACA was invited to become a partner in the Cultural Connections program. This included arts development workshops run by IACA facilitator Edwina Circuit, as well as men's and women's cultural maintenance camps. During the workshops which were held in October and November 2019, Edwina and Shona explored information from the Endeavour voyage, including journal entries written by Captain Cook and Joseph Banks, with the artists from Hopevale, Yarrabah and Bana Yirriji art centres.

Hopevale artists produced a series of lightboxes exploring the interactions of the Guugu Yimithirr people with Cook and his crew while stranded at what is now known as Cooktown after the Endeavour ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef.

Advocacy

IACA advocates for its member art centres at industry information booths at CIAF and DAAF. At these events staff engage with attendees to promote IACA, distribute issues of the IACA News Magazine, and sell IACA promotional merchandise.

IACA Manager Pam Bigelow continues to advocate for IACA members as an industry specialist Director on the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation Board of Management. She also continues as a Director on the Indigenous Art Code Board of Management. In both roles, Pam ensures IACA Art Centres are represented, consulted, informed and have the ability to contribute to national events and issues.

Further, Pam regularly co-writes feature articles for ArtsHub online to advocate for issues affecting art centres and their Indigenous artists. Her piece A New Age of Appreciation for First Nations Visual Arts: Indigenous artists from Far North Queensland to feature in Belonging, a major national exhibition, was published in October 2019. It describes how the art centres of FNQ have been producing artworks in facilitated workshops provided by IACA for two years, funded through the Indigenous Languages and Arts fund and The Australia Council. As she says, 'IACA member artists are from mostly very remote Indigenous communities and most of them have very strong connections to country and culture.' The Belonging exhibition is being co-ordinated by IACA in partnership with its members. It brings together artists from the islands of the Torres Strait, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York, and the tropical rainforest and coastal area surrounding Cairns and Cardwell regions.

The lockdown and cancellation of Art Fairs and closures of commercial galleries has meant that art sales dropped instantly, so IACA lobbied Federal and State governments to provide some emergency funds for all our members. We are very pleased and grateful to the State and Federal government for their response to our requests for assistance to help our members see it through this tough time.



Pam Bigelow presenting 'IACA Reaching for the Peak' at Museums & Galleries QLD Conference in Cairns, Sep 2019



Pam Bigelow at Arts Ablaze panel discussion, Oct 2019

Pam further advocated for IACA members in presenting the paper IACA Reaching for the Peak at the Museums and Galleries Conference held in Cairns in October 2019, and later discussing the logistics of setting up an art centre the Arts Ablaze Conference at Kooralbyn in south west QLD also in the same month.

Professional development and promoting best practice

IACA promotes best practice in regard to the fair and ethical trade in works of art by Indigenous artists and actively directs members towards agencies such as the Indigenous Art Code, the Copyright Agency and Arts Law, for access to information about standards for dealings between Dealers and Artists, commercial and legal aspects of the sector.

IACA Member Conferences

IACA conferences are held twice a year, organised by IACA staff and the Management Committee and chaired by the IACA Manager. They cover current information and advice on arts legislation and industry trends and provide members with the opportunity to access and connect with industry service providers. IACA is the only peak body to offer two members' conferences per year. The COVID -19 pandemic lockdown and travel restrictions meant the April 2020 Conference was delivered over 14 weekly online Zoom sessions.



Margaret Mara addressing delegates



Dreamtime tour of Mossman Gorge



Guide Andrew Gibson during Dreamtime tour of Mossman Gorge



Pam Bigelow time-keeping.

IACA Conference 31 October - 1 November 2019, Mossman Gorge, Yalanji Art Centre

Before the world ground to a halt IACA held its second Members Conference of 2019 at the Mossman Gorge Centre on the traditional lands of the Kuku Yalanji people. After commencing with a Kuku Yalanji Welcome to Country on the banks of the Mossman river, the event proceeded to include a tour of country and demonstrations by local guides, a number of presentations by industry specialists, a CIAF consultation session and captivating wrap-ups of the IACA Northern Disclosure and Belonging arts development workshops delivered by Curtis Taylor, Rebecca Dagnall and Edwina Circuit. The event concluded with the IACA Members Meeting and AGM, and feedback indicates the event overall was productive and much enjoyed by attendees.

October 2019 IACA Members Conference Evaluation: what did you like about the conference?

“Everything. Fantastic presenters. Fantastic, relevant program. Awesome excursions and locations.” Lisa Clarke, Yalanji Arts

“As always jammed packed with relevant info.” Joann Russo, Girringun Art

“Thank you all so much for another marvellous Conference - great content, good discussions, marvellous venue and a group of people we are super proud to be part of - you all enable us to make a difference!” John Armstrong and Bereline Loogatha, MiArt

“Really great to network with other Art Centres/managers, industry partners etc. Invaluable hearing other Art Centres problems/challenges and successes. Meeting the presenters, learning, understanding and refining skills for Art centre operations. Clarification of projects and knowledge of new opportunities” Lisa Clarke, Yalanji Arts

“Best one yet.” Anonymous

“Good to get updates from what's happening in the industry.” Solomon Booth, Moe Arts



Bereline Loogatha presenting to members.



IACA Members Conference delegates.



Yalanji Arts staff and artists welcoming conference delegates to the art centre.



Online Photography Training with Rebecca Dagnall via Zoom in 2020

IACA Conference Delivered Online via Zoom 30 April – 1 July 2020, Cairns

Upon cancelling our face-to-face April Conference, we accommodated our training delivery to 14 Zoom sessions covering a variety of areas pertinent to working in lockdown. The sessions covered photography of artwork and portraits; online sales and marketing; statistics: how to get them, what they mean and how to use them in your business; contracts; wills; licencing and other legal matters; developing your brand; making and editing videos; updates from CIAF and Arts QLD; SAM database training; stocktake and studio tips; and a NorthSite Gallery update & virtual tour of the renovated Cairns contemporary art space Bulmba-Ja. Sessions ran every Wednesday afternoon for two hours, were well attended, recorded, and filed in the IACA website Members page for future viewing for those who missed them, or wanted to review what they had seen. Feedback has been extremely positive.

“Good information... had to leave early so will watch the rest via website. This is such a useful tool being able to watch the training again in case I could not attend or just to go over it again in case I missed something” Valerie Boll, Manager Yarrabah Arts & Culture

“Fostering the sharing of information, experiences and contacts between art centres is absolutely fabulous. As a studio supervisor who occasionally steps up to manage, I have not developed a strong familiarity with other art centre managers and have therefore not had the confidence to ask for advice or help. These workshops have helped me to feel more comfortable with and to understand the openness and willingness of art centres/managers to support and to help each other. It feels like being part of an art centre 'community' now, rather than belonging to an individual art centre. Thank you IACA and all participating individuals for fostering and supporting such an inclusive and supportive culture.” Leanne Emmitt, acting Manager Yalanji Arts

Professional development and promoting best practice



Welcome to Country at the IACA Members Conference at Mossman Gorge, Oct 2019

Story Art Money - SAM training

The Story Art Money (SAM) database is an online artwork management system that enables the cataloguing of artworks, documentation of artists and financial management for both artists and the art business. SAM is an essential operational software tool designed specifically for Indigenous art centres, recognised as the platform for best practice record-keeping for artwork and money management. It is essential to regularly provide the opportunity for members to update their skills and knowledge in using this software.

Two 2-hour sessions were delivered by Bronwyn Taylor of Desert Via Zoom during the April/July IACA conference. The training was designed to suit beginners as well as advanced users, and focused on stocktake, using QR and Bar codes, inputting merchandise and answering any questions. All IACA members now use SAM which is a great achievement and a credit to the professionalism of the IACA network.

Artworker Training

At the October conference IACA produced a short video from the perspective of the artworkers in our region. The Video titled What IACA Arts Workers Want captured the hopes and wishes

for an artworker training program. In May 2020 IACA received funding from the Australia Council Cherish Fund to run the IACA Indigenous Artworker Program (IIAP). This will be delivered online, with face-to-face training when safe to travel. It will commence in September 2020 and run all year with weekly training in a variety of relevant art centre skills.

IIAP Training will cover:

- Artwork Curation and Exhibition Installation Practical at NorthSite Gallery in Cairns
- Personal Goal Setting Development
- Information Digital Media and Technology
- Digital Marketing
- Digital Marketing One-on-One Sessions
- Copyright and Digital Media
- Legal Issues and Digital Media
- Photography for Digital Media
- Photographing Artwork
- Story Art Money (SAM) Art Centre Management Software Training
- Artwork pricing and Sales
- Art Centre Studio Production Essentials
- Professional Development: Visit National Museum of Australia in Canberra for mentoring during the installation of the IACA Belonging Exhibition

IACA Lucille Osborne Emerging Artist Memorial Fellowship

In early 2015, IACA received a bequest from the Will of Lucille Osborne, and the Lucille Osborne Emerging Artist Memorial Fellowship was established. Each year, members are offered the opportunity to nominate an emerging artist to be considered for this award.

The 2019 Lucille Osborne Emerging Artist Memorial Fellowship was awarded to Dorothy Gabori of Mornington Island Arts, who happily and humbly accepted her prize on stage while beautiful images of her artworks were projected behind her. Dorothy chose to use her fellowship to travel to Yirrkala in the NT to attend the Garma Festival and have a tour of the Buku Larnggay Mulka Art Centre.

Through this fellowship, IACA can continue to support its artists to further develop their professional skills and provide the platform for future development work, often overlooked but intrinsic to the future success of art centres.

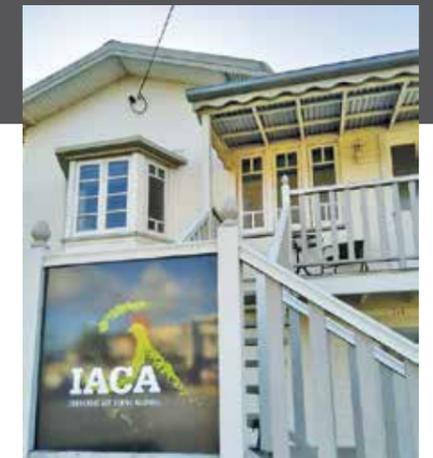


Pam Bigelow & Abe Muriata awarding the Memorial Fellowship to Dorothy Gabori at the IACA Artists Welcome Event, July 2019.

Operational Update



IACA staff, Maxine See Kee, Pam Bigelow & Geraldine Henrici.



IACA Office, 16 Scott St, Cairns.

IACA Staff

The IACA team remain stable with Pam Bigelow Manager, Maxine See Kee Finance and Operations Coordinator, Geraldine Henrici Project Coordinator and consultant writer and editor of the IACA News Georgina Dann.

IACA Office

IACA occupies Queenslander style offices just outside of the Cairns CBD in Scott Street, Parramatta Park. It offers hot desk facilities for members to use when visiting Cairns, a meeting room and staff offices.

IACA Artists Welcome



Belonging Preview Projection, July 2019



Belonging Exhibition Preview Projection, July 2019



Belonging Exhibition Preview Projection, July 2019



Pam Bigelow and Abe Muriata presenting at IACA Artists Welcome Event, July 2019.

IACA Projection Preview of the upcoming IACA Exhibition Belonging, Contemporary Art from Far North QLD

Each year before CIAF opens, IACA hosts the IACA Artists Welcome to celebrate and acknowledge the artists. This event is always very well attended and has developed into an important platform for artists and art centre managers to meet with collectors, curators and industry experts in a casual environment before the fair begins.

The Artists Welcome includes the announcement of the IACA Lucille Osborne Emerging Artist Memorial Fellowship Award - which was awarded to Dorothy Gabori from Mirndiyan Gununa Art Centre on Mornington Island. For the Fellowship Dorothy chose to attend the celebrated Garma Festival and have a tour of the Buku Larnggay Mulka Art Centre in Yirrkala in 2020 as professional development. Unfortunately this trip had to be deferred due to cancellation of the Garma Festival.

This year, the event also included a preview projection of the upcoming IACA Exhibition Belonging, Contemporary Indigenous Art from Far North QLD, which will feature the incredible works made by IACA artists in the remote regions of north Queensland. Over five days of CIAF, the preview brought selected experiences, images, stories, and culture from this area, projected onto the exterior of the Wharf One Café and surrounding gardens to a very receptive audience. Dr Ian Coates, Project Leader Endeavour 250 NMA, also made the announcement of the partnership between IACA and the NMA and the upcoming Belonging Exhibition to be launched in June 2021.

As a service provider, IACA does much of its work behind the scenes. The Artists Welcome offers our staff and Board the opportunity to communicate our role and achievements. Speeches were given by the IACA committee members Abe Muriata and Eric Orcher, while CIAF Board Chair Tom Mosby acknowledged the artists and their work, setting a positive and confident start to CIAF.



Crowd at IACA Artists Welcome Event, July 2019.



IACA Artists Welcome Event, July 2019.



Dr Ian Coates announcing the partnership between IACA and the NMA for the upcoming Belonging Exhibition at the IACA Artists Welcome Event, July 2019.



Eric Orcher, IACA Management Committee Member, Opening the Belonging Exhibition Projection, July 2019

Promotion and Marketing

IACA published an article on ArtsHub titled A new age of appreciation for First Nations visual arts: Indigenous artists from Far North Queensland to feature in Belonging, a major national exhibition. Belonging will be the first time audiences will see such a large and diverse body of new work for our region outside of Queensland. The exhibition will be curated by the National Museum of Australia whose curatorial and exhibition design team will work closely with artists, their art centres and IACA to ensure the beautiful artworks, stories and culture are showcased in powerful and innovative ways. IACA has hosted high-level arts facilitation workshops at all our member art centres over the past two years. Whilst focused on the Belonging exhibition, the workshops have had a deeper impact.

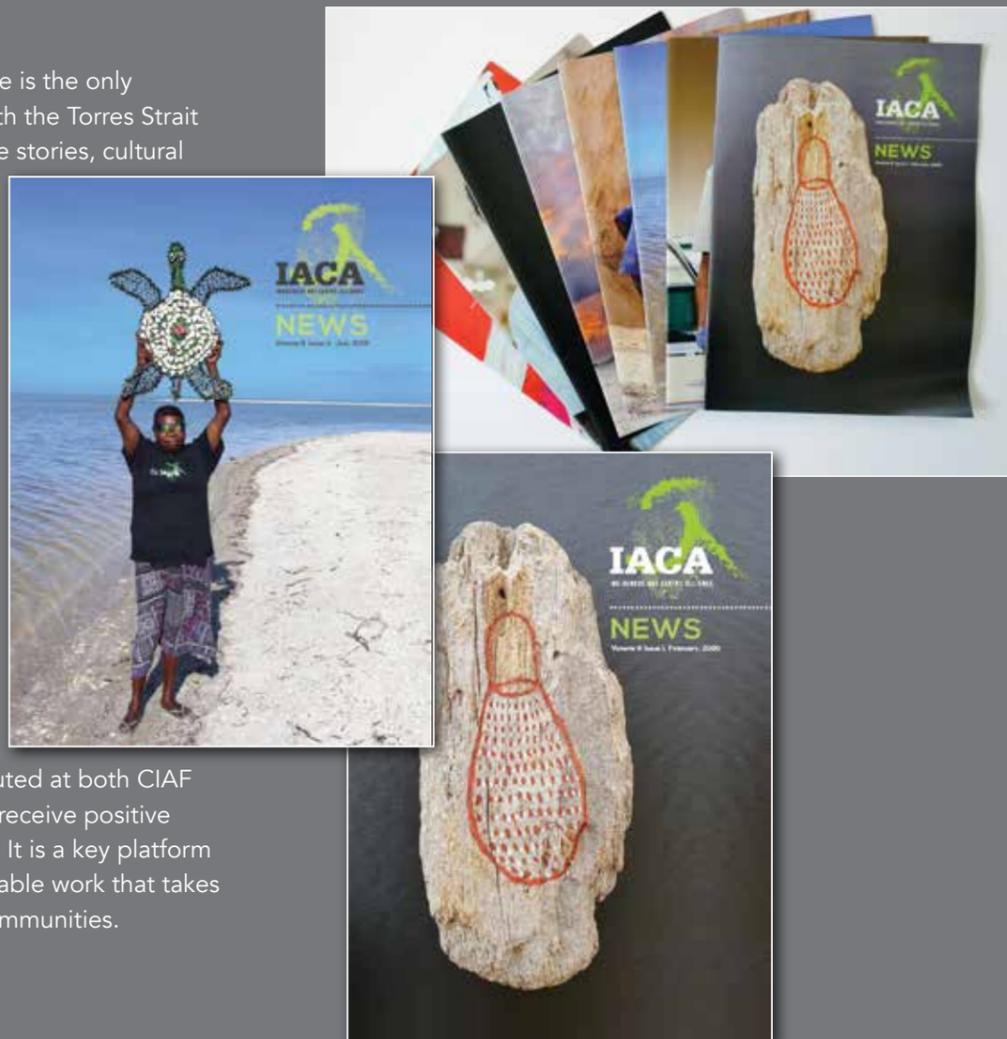
“*The artists have loved the workshops and the results have been extraordinary. But more than that, the workshops will leave a legacy of best-practice skills including, artistic conceptual development, professional studio practice and access to the best quality materials.’ Pam Bigelow*

In August 2019 IACA ran a back-page advertisement in the 2019 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Special Edition of Art Collector magazine. IACA also ran a full-page advertisement in the 2019 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Special Edition of Art Collector Magazine and sponsored the 2019 Guide to Indigenous Art Centres. Art Fair Special Edition of Art Collector Magazine.

IACA News magazine

Uniquely, IACA News magazine is the only publication to come out of both the Torres Strait and Cape York, showcasing the stories, cultural sharing, and stunning images from the region. IACA’s role is to raise awareness of the remarkable cultural landscapes where IACA art centres are located, and this full colour, twice-yearly magazine communicates this in compelling ways.

Volume 8, Issue 2 and Volume 9, Issue 1 of IACA News magazines were published in July 2019 and February 2020. Electronic and print copies were distributed to the 500+ IACA newsletter subscriber mailing list, and widely distributed at both CIAF and DAAF. IACA continues to receive positive feedback about the magazine. It is a key platform for communicating the remarkable work that takes place at member art centre communities.



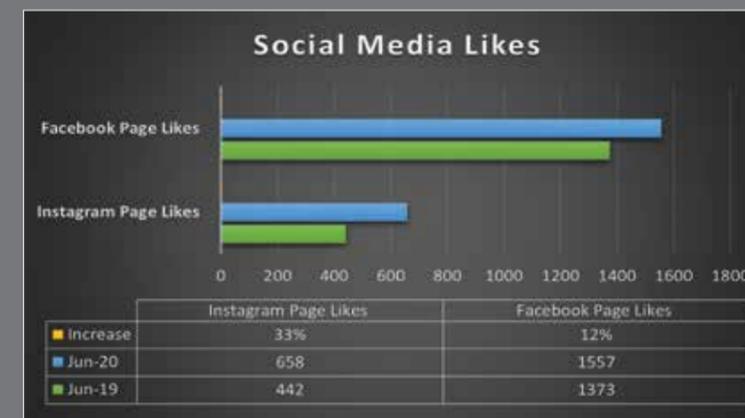
Website

The upgraded, password protected Members Area has been a real boon during COVID-19 as all our training videos delivered between April and July are stored there and members can access that training to revise or view if they were unable to watch the sessions live. This storage of 14 training sessions has been used frequently by members. For the public, the website is image rich, providing users with a clear understanding of the role IACA plays as a peak

Social Media

IACA takes an active role in marketing and promoting the membership, sharing and advocating news and events from art centres, and cross-promoting between the website, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook social media channels. Given the remote locations of IACA member art centres and the inability for most people to physically visit, social media has become an outstanding opportunity for art centres to communicate and share more broadly than traditional means would allow.

IACA continues to increase its social media presence, with IACA Facebook currently at 1,557 followers and Instagram at 658 followers. This equates to a 12 % increase in Facebook followers and a 33% increase in Instagram followers against the previous year.



IACA Merchandise

Following the success of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 gift card range, IACA developed a new range of gift cards for 2019 featuring images of artworks from twelve member Art Centres. These gift cards, along with IACA t-shirts, are extremely popular with visitors to the IACA industry booths at the Cairns and Darwin art fairs. We see many people returning to purchase our merchandise each year. This year, IACA stepped up its sales approach via its website and secured KickArts Contemporary Shop in Cairns as a local retail stockist for the card packs. Through this activity, and ‘The Entertainment Book’ fundraising efforts, IACA aims to boost ongoing support, advocacy and promotion of IACA for its members.



Corporate Governance

IACA Inc. held its seventh Annual General Meeting in Mossman on 30 October 2019.



Phil Rist, President.



Harold Ludwick, Deputy President.



Vikki Burrows, Treasurer.



Darrell Harris, Committee Member (resigned Feb 2020)

2019/2020 IACA Management Committee:

President	Phil Rist
Vice President	Harold Ludwick
Treasurer	Vikki Burrows
Committee Member	Darrell Harris (resigned Feb 2020)
Committee Member	Solomon Booth
Committee Member	Eric Orcher
Committee Member	Abe Muriata
Committee Member	John Armstrong
Committee Member	Margaret Mara
Secretary	Pam Bigelow



Solomon Booth, Committee Member.



Eric Orcher, Committee Member.



Abe Muriata, Committee Member.



John Armstrong, Committee Member.



Margaret Mara, Committee Member



Pam Bigelow, Secretary

Funding

Commonwealth Government	Indigenous Languages and Arts Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Australia Council for the Arts	The IACA Belonging project is funded by ILAP funding. The Ministry for the Arts provides operational funds for IACA through the IVAIS program as well as discretionary funds for specific purposes. IVAIS Funds were also provided for training to art centres in the use of a new Digital Labelling system developed in response to the national Fake Art campaign. IACA receives support from the Australia Council for the Arts for the Northern Disclosure project.
State Government	Arts QLD Backing Indigenous Arts	Arts QLD funding is vital in supporting both the core operations of IACA and the bi-annual conferences through its BIA program.
Philanthropic	Lucille Osborne Bequest	In 2015, IACA received a bequest from the Will of Lucille Osborne, and the annual Lucille Osborne Emerging Artist Memorial Fellowship was established.
Income	Membership Fees Fundraising	IACA receives support from the Australia Council for the Arts for the Northern Disclosure project.

REVENUE	
Membership Fees	2,363.61
OTHER REVENUE	
Interest Received	726.39
Gifts and Donations	360.00
Recoveries	15,555.13
Other revenue	976.36
GRANTS EXPENDED	
Arts Queensland Operational Funding	220,000.00
ATO Cash Flow Boost	71,188.00
Australia Council for the Arts, Indigenous Film & Photography Fund prior year	57,814.99
Dept. of Communications & the Arts, IVAIS	197,830.17
Dept. of Communications & the Arts, IVAIS Variation	55,000.00
Dept. of Communications & the Arts, ILAP	19,388.65
Tim Fairfax & Sidney Myer Family Foundations prior year	11,572.39
National Museum of Australia	94,545.45
TOTAL REVENUE	749,957.53
EXPENDITURE	
Accounting & Auditor Fees	12,175.25
Administration	3,146.47
Amortisation	19,593.90
Art Fairs	25,104.36
Artist Payment	272.73
Auditor's Remuneration	4,700.00
Bank Charges	58.17
Computer Software, Maintenance & Consumables	5,753.60
Conference Expenses	44,653.54
Consultancy & Contractor Fees	44,353.17
Depreciation	5,228.38
Electricity & Telephone	6,739.69
Holiday Pay, Movement in Provision	7,834.89
Insurance	5,484.21
Interest Expenses	771.74
Meetings and Governance	21.64
Merchandise	279.55
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,983.82
Newsletter, Promotion, Advertising and Marketing	39,527.16
Project Expenses	26,609.84
Rent	1,698.04
Repairs and Maintenance	2,635.73
Storage Fees	3,000.00
Superannuation Contributions	32,070.17
Travelling Expenses	59,098.43
Wages	319,140.98
Website Development	395.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	2,451.39
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	674,781.85
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	72,539.29
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	78,60.36
RETAINED EARNINGS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	151,142.65



Hopevale Arts & Culture storage room during the NMA Endeavour Voyage Arts Development workshop, August 2019

Donate

IACA is a small organisation that punches above its weight to support culturally strong best practice Indigenous art enterprises. To make a big difference to Australia's most remote Indigenous artists, you can easily donate via our DONATIONS form on the IACA website. www.iaca.com.au Donations are tax deductible.

INDIGENOUS
ART CENTRE
ALLIANCE

IACA



The Indigenous Art Centre Alliance Inc. (IACA) is the peak body that supports and advocates for the community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and cultural centres of Far North Queensland.

www.iaca.com.au