

**AUSTRALIAN  
DANCE  
COUNCIL-  
AUSDANCE  
(ACT) INC**

2015

# Annual Report

Ausdance ACT acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional custodians of the Canberra region. The region was also an important meeting place and significant to other Aboriginal groups. Ausdance ACT acknowledges the historical dispossession and its continuing legacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.<sup>1</sup>

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act

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<sup>1</sup> Copied and adapted from artsACT as at 11 May 2016

## Operations

The Australian Dance Council – Ausdance (ACT) Inc – is a not-for-profit arts organisation incorporated in 1992.

Ausdance ACT provides valued programs and services to the dance community of the ACT and surrounds.

Ausdance ACT works through the co-operative efforts of a voluntary Board and a small dedicated team of employees, supplemented by project workers and volunteers, with an ethic of mutual support to ensure successful delivery of highly effective programs and services.

In 2015 Ausdance ACT had two sources of ACT Government funding –

- limited and targeted Key Arts Organisation funding from artsACT; and
- a grant for 3 years, 2015-2017 inclusive, from the ACT Government’s Education and Training Directorate to deliver *Move Up!* professional learning program.

Ausdance ACT also receives a significant part of its income from non-ACT Government sources, such as sales, sponsorship and fees, in particular from the annual schools and colleges based Youth Dance Festival.

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## **Board of Management at 31 December 2015**

**President** Lauren Honcope

**Vice President** Laura Pearce

**Treasurer** Nicole Price

**Secretary** Emily Appleton

**Members** Kym Degenhart, Sue Jones, Bianca Gomez, Alison Plevy (resigned January 2015), Kerrin Rowlands (resigned January 2015) and Emma Dykes (resigned March 2015)

## **Office Staff 2015**

**Director Ausdance ACT** (until 31 March 2015) Neil Roach

**Marketing and Communication Manager** Emma Dykes (from February 2015)

**Dance Education Programs Manager** (includes being **Director, Youth Dance Festival**) Danielle White

## **Project Personnel 2015**

### **Move Up Professional Learning**

Larissa McGowan, Jamie Winbank, Andrew De Luna, Philip Piggin, Daniel Riley, Liz Lea, Kylee Sharp

## **Youth Dance Festival**

**Creative Director and Choreographic Mentor** Jamie Winbank

**Rehearsal Manager** Olivia Fyfe

**Stage Manager** Cameron Walter

**Assistant Stage Managers** Eamon Cross, Cerri McLean, Matthew Gard, Will Tran

### **Production**

KV Productions, Art Atelier Photography, Students of Canberra Institute of Technology

**Casual Staff (YDF)** Cat Voss

### **Volunteers**

Philip Piggin, Maya Guy, Ellen Parsons, Sophia Mitchell and Board Members

### **Work Experience (YDF)**

17 work experience students stage crew from Narrabundah College, UCSSC Lake Ginninderra College, Hawker College, Lake Tuggeranong College, Campbell High School, Merici College

## **Strange Attractor**

**Artists** Alison Plevy, Amelia McQueen, Janine Proost, Olivia Fyfe and Laura Boynes

**Curator** Adelina Larsson

**Facilitator** Margie Medlin

**Marketing/Production** Jamie Winbank

**Finance/Logistics** Alison Plevy

**Other creative personnel** Guy Harding (technical production), Lorna Sim (photography), AGAC  
Writer in Residence Lucy Nelson.

## Members

Members of Ausdance ACT have been, always, a key source of its development and drive. Particular contributors of Ausdance ACT success have been awarded life membership. Members include independent dance artists, dance studios, dance teachers, community groups and dance students, including at schools and colleges. In 2015 membership offered a range of benefits for relatively low annual joining or renewal fees (details on our web site and in previous Annual Reports).

We are grateful to our members for supporting Ausdance ACT, even though our attention to them and members' services had to take second place in 2015 to providing our key programs, as we cut staffing costs (see below in the President's and Treasurer's Reports).

The idea of 'membership' is changing as organisations adapt to the internet-driven arts and community environment. In Ausdance ACT we seek to develop and meet the needs of a dance *community* which includes members of the organisation but of course includes many more dance artists and other participants in dance in many different spaces and all stages in life, in the ACT and surrounds.

## Project Partners & Supporters

In 2015 Ausdance ACT's largest single financial partner/supporter remained the **ACT Government**, through artsACT and the Education and Training Directorate. Total grants from those two agencies represented around 42% of our total income. ('Income' does not include the dollar value of 'in kind' philanthropy and support.) Ausdance ACT is grateful for that continuing ACT Government support.

Despite the apparently boundless commitment and massive energy of our very few staff and of our Board and volunteers in 2015 - Ausdance ACT's programs simply could not happen without the support of our **non-government** community partners and sponsors. This was particularly relevant in 2015 with the reduction of our government grant.

### Dance Week

Westside Acton Park  
Belconnen Fresh Food Markets  
Rock Development  
Spinebill Design and Illustration

### Youth Dance Festival

#### Production Partners

Canberra Institute of Technology, Art Atelier Photography, KV Productions, Canberra Theatre Centre, Spinebill Design & Illustration, Belluci's Italian, Canberra Milk

#### Community Inclusion Partner

Rock Development

#### Media Partners

WIN TV, Canberra Weekly, 104.7 Canberra, HerCanberra

## President's Report

*In 2015 Ausdance ACT – staff and board - demonstrated organisational adaptability, commitment, vision and resilience. This happened in a context of uncertainty of continued government funding for Ausdance ACT and for other Ausdance offices around Australia.*

*That uncertainty was resolved, in the ACT, in Ausdance's favour: we continue, we thrive, we are part of the local dance ecology, and we are valued by stakeholders and funders.*

2015 was an extremely challenging and busy year for core staff and the board. That we got through 2015 successfully and with the knowledge that the ACT Government's artsACT had agreed to grant \$90,000 to Ausdance Act in 2016 and 2017 is something of which all staff and the board can be very proud.

So I record here massive gratitude to core and project staff, to the board, to volunteers, audiences and supporters for helping to make 2015 a successful year despite significant challenges.

### Funding

For many years Ausdance ACT, as a long term Key Arts Organisation (KAO), was fortunate to receive ACT Government grants from a range of agencies. The most important source of those grants has been *artsACT* providing around \$125,000 for each year of our business plan 2010 – 2014. That funding supported core employee and administrative costs.

In 2014, as members and supporters would expect, we applied for a further five years (2015-2019) of KAO funding at similar levels as the previous five years. Late in 2014, *artsACT* advised Ausdance ACT that

- they would not financially support most of our KAO business plan for 2015-2019, and
- Ausdance ACT would receive KAO funding of only \$90,000 and only for 2015, with \$23,000 of that amount required by *artsACT* to be allocated to specific elements of our year's program, leaving only \$67,000 to support core salaries, acknowledging Ausdance ACT's support for arts development outcomes.

This represented an effective cut in *artsACT* annual funding of our business plan of around 46%.

*artsACT* advised that they valued Ausdance ACT's programs but, bearing in mind diminished government funds for arts in the ACT, they needed to emphasise support for professional performance and professional artform development in particular. *artsACT* rightly noted that a significant number of our programs participants are students and teachers in schools and colleges (Youth Dance Festival) or studio and community members (Dance Week).

The impact on Ausdance ACT of *artsACT*'s decision was lessened to some extent by a much-appreciated grant from the Education and Training portfolio of \$15,000 for each of 2015-2017, to fund our teacher professional learning program, Move Up, in support of dance in *The Australian Curriculum: The Arts*.

The curriculum entitles students to engage with dance as one of five arts subjects throughout primary school with opportunities to specialise in one or more arts subjects from the beginning of secondary school.

### **How Ausdance ACT responded to artsACT's decision**

As I said in my February 2015 letter to members and supporters, we think that – in 2014-2015 - artsACT misunderstood and undervalued our programs. For example, we consider that our long-standing, iconic high schools and colleges based Youth Dance Festival (Dance Fest) is of significant creative, artistic value – especially for the 1,400+ participants and 2,500+ audience members each year. We say that Dance Fest is a beautiful example of accessible, inclusive; value-for-money youth dance experience. All of this would have seemed to fall well within the then Arts Policy Framework. No Education and Training Directorate funding is provided for Dance Fest.

However, we had to accept that, over the years, artsACT has had declining amounts of money for grants; the *artsACT* decision has been made and we had to respond in a way intended to ensure the future of Ausdance ACT, in the best interests of dance in Canberra.

**So we reviewed our budget and programs in light of the artsACT decision.** We looked to decrease costs. We reduced overall paid staffing to two part time core staff. That was personally hard for the staff affected and for the board. We increased income through commercial and community partnerships, sponsorships, promotions and other non-government support. We decided on some increases in fees and charges to participate in some of our valued programs. The financial result was a small surplus.

**Another way we responded was with heaps of commitment, drive, energy and cheerfulness – and generosity from our community.** Since April 2015 our organisational planning, budgeting, governance/secretariat duties, human resource management and a whole lot more, have been provided with volunteer time and expertise (from the President, Treasurer and other board members), supported by our part time staff. Other people who worked with us on our programs have done so as volunteers or at reduced charges. **We thank them very, very much.**

**We also put a renewed focus on building appreciation for Ausdance ACT's work and events,** through different marketing and communications strategies and style, led by Emma Dykes. This resulted in new partners and an increase in involvement from existing partners. Thank you to all those people and organisations also.

We **successfully delivered our programs:** *Move Up* Professional Learning (supported by ACT Education and Training Directorate); Dance Week 2015; Professional Classes in contemporary practices, at Belconnen Arts Centre, co-ordinated by independent artist Alison Plevy; auspices for independent artists and projects; and the 31<sup>st</sup> Youth Dance Festival (YDF). This significant achievement is thanks to the small Ausdance ACT staff team of Danielle White and Emma Dykes, supported by book-keeper Lesley Porroj and to project staffing and volunteers. YDF was refreshed by our new YDF Director, long standing staff member Danielle White and our Canberra based choreographic mentor and all round ball-of-energy, ideas and positivity, Jamie Winbank.

We also enabled the third *Strange Attractor*, with grant moneys flowing through us to Alison Plevy, Jamie Winbank and Adelina Larsson and with the support of AGAC and QL2.

Somehow through all this activity, staff managed to mostly keep on top of emails, calls, essential general administration and attending to memberships. A great big thank you to them all!

**YDF** - the challenge in 2015 was to provide YDF to our schools and colleges dance community, despite the funding situation we were facing. **Together with many committed dance people and supporters – Ausdance ACT met that challenge.** Thank you to all the students and families who helped by paying the new \$10 per student participation fee for YDF. Thank you to our generous corporate partner, Rock Development, who made sure that the few students who needed financial support for that fee, got that support.

Thank you Canberra Theatre Centre for helping us with discount fees and charges.

Thank you to our audio expert Kimmo Vennonen, our Stage Manager Cameron Walter and the crew who have worked with us during YDF production week for some years without any increase in pay and, in some cases, as volunteers or at significantly discounted rates.

Thank you creative team led by Danielle White and Jamie Winbank and to our Rehearsal Manager Olivia Fyfe.

Thank you every single teacher who, with students, went above and beyond – especially in production week.

### **Conclusion**

2015 turned out to be a magnificent year of dedication which demonstrated to stakeholders our value to the dance community of the ACT. We go forward to 2016 well pleased with ourselves. Congratulations everyone!



Lauren Honcope, President

## Treasurer's Report

In 2015, we threw all the balls in the air, and we are pleased to report they landed well.

We received notification in late 2014 that our 2015 funding from artsACT was reducing from \$125,000 in 2014 to \$90,000 in 2015. Of this amount, \$15,000 was funding to produce the 2015 Strange Attractor project, leaving just \$75,000 for operations and the delivery of our program, and being \$50,000 less than was available the year before. In addition to this reduction in funding, we were also asked to apply for program funding for 2016, a less stable source of funding for our organisation, with no guarantees of a successful application.

At the end of March 2015, our long standing Director resigned, prompting the need to restructure our staffing, which was done to ensure our core projects could be delivered for 2015 within the reduced budget. The aim was for an overall surplus of \$16,700, to assist with an increasingly needed IT renewal, subject to the outcome of our 2016 program funding application.

Whilst the surplus for 2015 was set in order to build reserves, it was recognised by the board at the start of the year that the outcome for 2015 was more uncertain than usual, given the staffing changes that arose. I am pleased to report a surplus of \$1,868 in 2015; however this is less than was aimed for in this unusual and challenging year. The income in many areas was pleasingly higher than anticipated, overall costs were well contained, however there were nonetheless unplanned expenses that arose. The items of note are:

- Auspice income far exceeded the budget, with income earned from auspice activities being almost \$14,000, around \$8,500 more than was budgeted.
- Tarkett hire was identified as outside our core activities. It became more difficult and expensive to store, requiring staff to actively assist with the hire arrangements. As the income was relatively minor before incurring staff costs, the board decided to sell the existing tarkett. As such, the earnings from 'tarkett hire' were \$4,700 more than budgeted in 2015.
- Under a new festival director, the Youth Dance Festival in 2015 produced almost \$3,700 more profit than budgeted.
- Staffing costs were \$16,000 higher than budgeted. With increased availability, we were able to employ Emma Dykes for more hours than we initially included in the budget. There were also increased costs as leave accrued and casual administrative assistance was required.
- Whilst the first year of the DET funded Move Up program came in on budget, a small amount of early fee income was accounted for in 2014 and not 2015, leading to a small shortfall from budget in 2015 (c. \$2,000).

The largest contribution to the lower than budgeted surplus was an unplanned fringe benefits tax liability. In 2015 we incurred a fringe benefits tax liability for employee salary packaging, which was \$18,508. The liability was incurred after we sought and relied on advice from the chartered



accountancy firm which had provided auditing services to us for some years. The error in the advice came to light after the packaging had been undertaken and was confirmed with ATO.

We are paying the unplanned FBT liability under a payment plan agreed with ATO. We are seeking in 2016 to recoup the loss from the chartered accountancy firm. In the meantime, we have noted the liability (plus accrued interest) as an expense in the 2015 financials, reducing the potential surplus significantly.

The 2015 year commenced with \$53,364 in retained equity. I am pleased to report that after a year with so much change, that we now have \$55,232 of retained earnings, in addition to the unresolved claim concerning FBT advice. This \$55,232 is 22% of projected income for 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Price', written in a cursive style.

Nicole Price, Treasurer

## MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF FUNDING BODIES

### *artsACT* Arts Policy Framework

#### Policy Principles

At the time that Ausdance ACT's revised 2015 program was finalised, we were working within the following arts policy Principles –

**Principle One:** Facilitate Community Participation in and Access to the Arts; arts outcomes, education and implementation of the National Arts Curriculum, community access to the arts in new ways, Canberra as a regional centre, fostering relationships to create new opportunities.

**Principle Two:** Support Artistic Excellence and Artistic Diversity; promoting the intrinsic value of arts participation, providing assistance to local artists at all stages of their careers, working through arts hubs, promoting ACT artists and organisations achieving artistic excellence.

**Principle Three:** Strengthen the Sustainability of Arts Organisations and the Capacity of the Arts to Contribute to Social and Economic Outcomes; working with arts hubs, engaging with tourism events.

**Principle Four:** Foster Artistic Innovation and Creative Thinking; empower artists to self-identify areas of enquiry, supporting artists development at all stages of their careers, supporting cross-arts collaborations.

In mid-2015 *artsACT* reviewed the [ACT Arts Policy Framework](#). Ausdance ACT was an active and committed participant in the review, which occurred in the first half of 2015. We participated vocally in the community forum, arranged a sector forum for dance and circus held at Gorman Arts Centre and made a considered written submission. We showed that Ausdance ACT knows well, and is integrated with and relied on by, the lively and diverse dance sector of Canberra.

We took the opportunity to point out the lack of ACT Government funding for Ausdance ACT's Youth Dance Festival (YDF). That lack of funding is, we say, inconsistent with the benefits of the consistently high and inclusive participation in the event. It is also inconsistent with the arts education policy adopted by ACT Education and Training.

#### Acquittals of Funds

Ausdance Act acquits funds granted to it by *artsACT* and by ETD, as required. The requirements are quite detailed.

## 2015 MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

Ausdance ACT delivered the following **artsACT-funded programs**:

1. The professional contemporary dance artist development project **Strange Attractor**, at a cost of \$15,000 to Ausdance ACT, entirely funded by **artsACT**.
2. A collaboration with Belconnen Arts Centre for space use by contemporary dance artist-driven **professional classes**.
3. The 31<sup>st</sup> **Youth Dance Festival**, with artistic **choreography** funded by artsACT at \$8,000; and
4. A range of dance arts development services and opportunities – including **Dance Week** - in a range of settings, which fall within the **artsACT Arts Framework Policy Principles** (see below).

Ausdance ACT also delivered the ACT Education and Training Directorate funded Program of **Professional Learning, MOVE UP**.

## MAJOR PROJECTS

### MOVE UP PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



January 2015 Move Up Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier Photography

### TQI Accredited Programs Delivered:

#### MOVE UP for High Schools and Colleges

19 & 20 January 2015

The January workshops consisted of a warm up, led by Jamie Winbank, with a volume of warm up activities and ideas. Followed by a full day contemporary dance session led by Larissa McGowan from Australian Dance Theatre and a second full day jazz funk hip hop workshop led by teacher Andrew De Luna from Sydney Dance Company (classes). Each day concluded with a facilitated reflection, discussion and sharing workshop with all teachers, this also provided a networking and bridging (primary to high and high to college) opportunity.

Complimentary to these workshops was a base, which is ever expanding compilation of resources for teachers on dance. This can be viewed at: <http://ausdanceact.org.au/development/teacher-resources/>, with the password Moveup15.

### **MOVE UP for Primary 5/6**

19 January 2015

Primary school teachers spent a full day with Dance Educator Philip Piggini, Community Arts Officer at Belconnen Arts Centre, a Skill Set Trainer for Ausdance ACT, Teacher at Canberra Dance Theatre and a teacher of dance teachers. The session material and resources referred directly to the curriculum guidelines, consisting of dance activities, responding to and assessing dance, creating dance using choreographic tools and sharing ideas.

### **MOVE UP Indigenous Interactive Lecture/Workshop for Primary & Secondary Teachers**

30 August 2015

This was a first of its kind workshop in Canberra, open to both primary, high and college teachers. Led by Daniel Riley of Bangarra Dance Theatre, the workshop contained an insight into protocol, delivery and techniques to deliver education about Indigenous dance. The workshop delved into the photographic work 'Cloud' by Michael Riley and taught participants how to extract movement ideas and dance inspired by the images, retaining respect for the culture and protocols in teaching about Indigenous Dance.

### **Teacher Identified hours Programs Delivered:**

#### **MOVE UP Classical Indian Dance Workshop**

11 April 2015

Run by specialist teacher Liz Lea, Artistic Director of Canberra Dance Theatre and Associate Director at QL2 Dance. Liz is currently Choreographer in Residence at CSIRO Discovery and recently directed the DANscienCE Festival. Liz works in schools and with teachers, leads the CDT GOLD team of senior dancers, as well as continuing her artistic independent professional practice. Liz delivered an introduction to Classical Indian dance technique.

#### **MOVE UP African Dance**

8 August 2015

Kylee Sharp, specialist teacher of African dance, trained and performed in Africa, now trains with the 'Dundunba' African Dance and Drumming Troupe and has been teaching and performing the vibrant and energetic dances of West Africa for many years. Kylee delivered a high energy African workshop in the basics, technique and some traditional full dances that participants could take away and teach.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/teachers-brush-up-on-their-dance-skills-from-national-curriculum-at-ausdance-act-move-up-workshops-20150120-12u1d7.html>

## PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

Ausdance ACT's development collaboration with Belconnen Arts Centre continued in 2015. Each Wednesday during term time, Ausdance ACT run a low cost professional class at the Belconnen Arts Centre. This weekly low cost initiative has given professional dancers their own work space independent of commercial studios or youth dance structures.

The class is lead by dancers on a one to two week cycle and in 2015 was organised with the assistance of Ausdance ACT Member and dancer Alison Plevy. Any independent dancer is welcome, local or just visiting. 2015 teachers included Alison Plevy, Adelina Larsson, Jake Kuzma, Holly Diggle, Elle Morris, Olivia Fyfe, Jamie Winbank, Eliza Sanders, Sue Healey, Debora Di Centa and Ashlee Bye.

The professional independent scene in Canberra is small in numbers. The class has been fundamental in bringing this small group together on a regular basis and numerous project collaborations grew from this opportunity.

## AUSTRALIAN DANCE WEEK 2015



Photo Dance Week Launch 2015, Photo Lorna Sim

### Australian Dance Week 29 April – 10 May 2015

#### Don't Walk Dance

Australian Dance Week is about celebrating dance in all its forms and encouraging everyone to experience the joy of dancing. Australian Dance Week originated in 1982 as a series of lunch time performances and has grown into a nationwide celebration with each state and territory hosting a variety of free performances and classes.

Ausdance ACT's 2015 Dance Week program commenced on Wednesday 29th April 2015, on *International Dance Day*, and ran through until Sunday 10th May.

#### Program Highlights included:

- The Dance Week program was launched by Minister for the Arts Joy Burch on International Dance Day at Westside Acton Park and featured *Canberra's BIGGEST Dance Jam*, a dance class hosted by local performer, teacher and creator Jamie Winbank.
- Ausdance ACT's long standing partnership with Rock Development and Belconnen Fresh Food Markets continued with *Dance Displays* on both Saturday 2nd and Saturday 9th May - two days of highlighting the diversity of dance on the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets stage.
- *Celebrating Seniors* was also presented at the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets on Seniors Day. The Silver Treads Senior Tap Dancing Group for over 50s performed.
- Belconnen Arts Centre with support from Ausdance ACT presented *Dance on the Edge*. The ACT hosts a diverse, creative and passionate dance community and while small in number, they are big in their vision and practice. This program provides an opportunity for our local independents to showcase their work.
- Other highlights included No Lights No Lycra South Canberra's *The Good Morning Rave* at Gorman Arts Centre, performances of Elizabeth Cameron Dalman's *Fortuity – celebrating 50 years of contemporary dance in Australia* at The Courtyard Studio as well as in public places in our National Institutions, Canberra Dance Theatre's *Ballet Expose*, film screenings of The Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake* at Palace Electric and Canberra Theatre Centre seasons of Sydney Dance Company's *Frame of Mind* and *Le Noir – The Dark Side of Cirque*.
- Free and trial dance classes were also run at dance studios across Canberra.

Australian Dance Week aims to raise awareness of professional dance and dance in the community, and to celebrate its diversity. Ausdance ACT's 2015 Dance Week program and the Dance Jam in particular were successful and provided an effective vehicle to promote and highlight dance to the broader community as well as raise the profile of Ausdance ACT and our programs.

Media coverage was comprehensive; a sample of print and online media is included below:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-29/dance-week/6431068>

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-life/canberra-gets-ready-to-pump-up-the-jam-during-dance-week-20150429-1mw11m.html>

<http://hercanberra.com.au/event/australian-dance-week/>



Dance Week 2015 Design, Spinebill Design and Illustration



Youth Dance Festival 2015 Design, Spinebill Design and Illustration

## Youth Dance Festival 2015

With a refreshed approach, Dance Fest 2015 saw increased entry numbers; a smooth and professional feel show with an energetic and enjoyable atmosphere for all involved. 2015 also saw the inclusion of a new start to the show, a flash mob creative piece choreographed by the Creative Director and Choreographic Mentor (CDCM), Jamie Winbank. The removal of the MCs and tightening of technical aspects ensured a sharp and concise show over three nights, which drew significant positive feedback.

Overall Dance Fest 2015 entitled 'Explorations' included:

- 56 different dances works with 1,388 dancers.
- 35 different high schools and colleges participating, with the majority (25) from the public sector, with the remainder independent (3) or Catholic (7).
- 17 work experience stage and technical crew from Narrabundah College, UCSSC Lake Ginninderra College, Hawker College, Lake Tuggeranong College, Campbell High School, Merici College.
- There were 2,356 ticketed attendances, 200 more than 2014.

### **Creative Guided Development Project**

The project has the distinction of delivering a professional show based on empowering self-creativity without competitiveness. It is a six-month long development process which starts in February with rebuilding contact lists for schools and writing to principals and teachers. The CDCM was engaged early in the year and involved in the artistic and creative decisions aspects of the show. Jamie held two choreographic workshops for student head choreographers which were well attended and he was able to visit every school and offer valuable advice on choreographic development for each piece in Dance Fest. It is the non-competitive, cooperative, and moderated aspects of the project that encourage schools such as Black Mountain School to continue participating every year.

### **Sponsorship**

Canberra Theatre Centre offered a generous support which assisted the budget and improved the overall production quality of the show.

Rock Development extended their level of support of Ausdance ACT'S Dance Week to Youth Dance Festival in the form of \$2,500 cash sponsorship as an inclusion sponsor to help with the newly introduced student registration fee. Rock Development assisted with securing a catering sponsor, Belluci's Italian for the YDF crew for the duration of the week, which saved \$1000.

Spinebill Design and Illustration provided graphics and PR material for Dance Fest at a reduced sponsor rate. Media sponsors included Canberra Weekly, 104.7, WIN TV and HerCanberra.

Canberra Milk, a sponsor since 1987, continued their support and provided milk for all participants. KV Productions reduced the fee for music mastering for the show. The three performances were filmed by the Media Department of the Canberra Institute of Technology at a sponsor rate and more than 8,000 photographs were taken by photographer Art Atelier Photography as sponsorship.

The continued support of theatre crew, staff and volunteers, with the school participation rates year after year prove the worth and value of running Youth Dance Festival in Canberra, far beyond any monetary value.



2015 Youth Dance Festival Calwell High School Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier Photography

## STRANGE ATTRACTOR

***Strange Attractor*** is a choreographic development platform for professional independent dance artists and performance makers based in or connected to Canberra and the ACT. It is a process of choreographic investigation, research, critical dialogue and sharing.

Strange Attractor 2015 was a project of Ausdance ACT supported by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres and QL2 Dance through their Curated Residency Program. In 2015 the project was produced and managed by Adelina Larsson, Jamie Winbank and Alison Plevey. The project developed out of the 2013 Strange Attractor, a precursor to the Australian Dance Awards which were presented in Canberra by Ausdance ACT.

The curatorial team are committed to the development of this platform as a rigorous space for choreographic inquiry and practical research of their processes in developing their work.

***Strange Attractor: The Space in the Middle*** ran 21-28 June engaging artists Alison Plevey, Amelia McQueen, Janine Proost, Olivia Fyfe and Laura Boynes, guided, poked and provoked by Margie Medlin, former [Critical Path](#) Director. Medlin brought her skills in choreographic process, lighting/production design and a specific focus on the moment of 'not knowing' in the creative act. As a provocateur, mentor and workshop leader she provided a critical eye for the participants in the studio and open sharing sessions which concluded the week long residency.

The project was one that involved rigorous development of creative process, honing the individual artistic voice and an exploration of new and experimental ideas.



This time proved vital for artists to push their interests and the form, develop collaborative connections and expose audiences to their practice.

Design and release of application call out occurred April 2015 where applicants from Canberra or with strong connection to Canberra were encouraged to apply. The selected applicants journeyed to Canberra in June 2015 undertaking discussion, dialogue, critical feedback, dance classes, choreographic development, showing, documentation of process, public showing/performance, audience engagement/feedback, artistic debrief and project evaluation.

Artists were afforded equal time and space to research, develop, test their work, in shared space and private space with individual time with facilitator Margie Medlin, whose input particularly in relation to lighting and technical elements proved very useful way in to the development.

Two (ticketed \$10) public showings/performances were held to culminate the project, which were promoted through QL2 Dance, Ausdance ACT and Ainslie and Gorman House networks, Strange Attractor website/social media and through printed promotional material (flyers/posters).

The time was very short but is it truly incredible what learning, experimentation and connections can be struck up in such a short time. The participating artists though pushed by their aims/objectives and by time were energised by this pressure rather than stressed. The support within the group, willingness to jump in to feedback and act as dancers/bodies for each other's processes was invaluable.

Artists varied in what they achieved, some focussing primarily on research processes. I.e. Janine using principle of 'natural vision' as a way into movement, whilst others experimented across form eg. Amelia with Audio/sound looping and Laura with visual art, project and installation with her brother Alex Boynes. This cross art form development is something that was unique to this year's project. A commencing of choreographic development utilising interdisciplinary approaches or fields.

Open showings with audiences enabled direct dialogue and feedback fuelling ongoing developments whilst generating audience appreciation and understanding of contemporary dance processes.

Artists struck up or continued to develop strong ties and collaborative relationships, as well as providing a recurring link to Canberra, evolving a practice here. See a video here with responses from artists: <https://vimeo.com/164073794>



Amelia McQueen, Strange Attractor 2015 Photo Lorna Sim

## AUSPICES, GRANT-WRITING ASSISTANCE AND MARKETING SUPPORT

Ausdance ACT managed funding processes and necessary production assistance, for individual artists for dance development and new work; contracted personnel; satisfied employment and other legal requirements; ensured insurance coverage; organised invitations and desktop published programs as required; coordinated with other supporting groups or people; made payments, attended to GST requirements, provided accurate and timely financial reporting; provided simple financial report for acquittals; incorporated the auspice funds in the Ausdance ACT audit.

Despite a reduction in core staffing Ausdance ACT was able to continue to provide support for local dance artists in the form of management services for grants. Over the course of the year we auspiced grants for Alison Plevy's artsACT funded project *Work It*, James Batchelor's artsACT funded project *Metasystems* as well as James Batchelor's Australia Council funded project *Deep Space* (still in development).

Grant development services and support were provided for Liz Lea's artsACT application for the project *RED*, Sara Black's artsACT application for the project *Value for Money*, Canberra Dance Theatre's ACT Health and artsACT applications for *Great Sport*, Alison Plevy's artsACT application for *Nervous* and Liz Lea's application for the Goodwin Project to ACT Health. Of the six applications Ausdance ACT supported, four were funded and will be auspiced in 2016.

With the appointment of Emma Dykes to the position of Marketing and Communications Manager Ausdance ACT was able to increase the level of marketing support and advice provided to both local artists and members.

**EXTRACTS FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015 YEAR**

**AUSTRALIAN DANCE COUNCIL – AUSDANCE (ACT)  
INCORPORATED ABN 36 761 984 224**

**Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

AUSTRALIAN DANCE COUNCIL AUSDANCE (ACT) INCORPORATED

ABN: 36 761 984 224

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		\$	\$
Revenue			
Revenue from Ordinary Activities	2	246,121	225,713
Expenses			
Employee Benefits Expenses		(107,378)	(126,052)
Other Expenses		(134,791)	(102,040)
Depreciation		(2,084)	(3,959)
<b>Profit Before Income Tax</b>		<u>1,868</u>	<u>(6,338)</u>
Income Tax Expenses		-	-
<b>Profit for the Year</b>		<u>1,868</u>	<u>(6,338)</u>
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year, Net of Tax		-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<u>1,868</u>	<u>(6,338)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

AUSTRALIAN DANCE COUNCIL AUSSDANCE (ACT) INCORPORATED

ABN: 36 761 984 224

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	286,851	145,308
Trade and Other Receivables	5	4,385	3,523
Other current assets	7	1,042	1,102
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>292,278</u>	<u>149,933</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	339	2,423
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>339</u>	<u>2,423</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>292,617</u>	<u>152,356</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	8	50,538	30,123
Other Financial Liabilities	9	183,431	59,806
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>233,969</u>	<u>89,929</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Long-term Provisions		3,416	9,063
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>3,416</u>	<u>9,063</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>237,385</u>	<u>98,992</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>55,232</u>	<u>53,364</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves		65,989	65,989
Retained Earnings		(10,757)	(12,625)
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>55,232</u>	<u>53,364</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

AUSTRALIAN DANCE COUNCIL AUSDANCE (ACT) INCORPORATED

ABN: 36 761 984 224

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

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