

2017 | Annual Report



Australian Dance Council - Ausdance (ACT) Inc

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.¹



Supported by



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¹ adapted from '2015 ACT Arts Policy' Acknowledgment of Country.
Cover Photos Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier Photography, Lorna Sim,
Emma Dykes & Olivia Fyfe

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Operations

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

Ausdance ACT provides innovative, valuable programs and services for the dance community of the ACT and surrounds.

Ausdance ACT works through the dedication and expertise of a small but energetic and dynamic team of part-time employees, project staff and volunteers, including the board. We aim for organisational flexibility and mutual support, with a strong shared focus on delivering high quality programs with enduring impact.

In 2017 Ausdance ACT was supported by ACT Government funding –

- The second year of a two-year Program Organisation Funding grant, from artsACT; and
- The third and final year of a three-year grant from the Government's Education ACT for *Move Up*, our teacher-support professional learning program.

Ausdance ACT continues to be supported by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres in a range of ways, including our well-priced sub-licence for our office space.

In 2017 Ausdance ACT's income from non-ACT Government sources, such as sales, sponsorship, and fees, in particular from our annual schools and colleges-based Youth Dance Festival, was around 50% of total income.

Mission - Business Plan 2016-2017

To provide a number of high quality dance programs, not limited to any particular genre, which:

- engage and inspire ACT dance makers, performers, audiences, and other participants in the ACT,
- provide employment in the ACT for professional dancers and support for professional dance careers in the ACT, and
- enable ACT pre-professional dancers to access professional pathways.¹

¹ From the Business Plan 2016-2017 submitted for Ausdance ACT's successful application for program funding by artsACT

Board of management, staff, project personnel and volunteers

Board of Management at 31 December 2017

President Lauren Honcope

Vice President Kym Degenhart

Treasurer Philip Phung

Secretary Nicole Price

Members Susan Johnson (commenced in September 2017), Sue Jones and Elle Morris (commenced in May 2017)

Office Staff 2017

NOTES – (i) all office staff are part time; (ii) symbol '' means person is also a professional dancer*

Manager Emma Dykes

Project Officer Youth Dance Festival & Open Classes Olivia Fyfe*

Project Curator Dance Week, Escalate & Connexions Liz Lea*

Finance/Bookkeeping Lesley Porroj

Administrator Indigo Strudwicke

Project Personnel 2017

Move Up Professional Learning

Anthony Bartley*, Charles Bartley*, Canberra Swing Katz*, Olivia Fyfe*, Sue Healey*, Liz Lea*, Nerida Matthaei*, Kirstie McMillian*, Kurt Phelan*, Dr Katrina Rank*, Rachel Reid*

Open Classes

Alison Plevy*, Jamie Winbank*, Jacqui Simmonds*, Caroline Wall*, Debora Di Centa*, Carissa Jae*, Matt Cornell*, Eliza Sanders*, Melissa Markos*, Philip Piggini*, Ruth Osborne*, Eamon Cross*, Ellie Mostyn*, Debbie T Wharton*, Jess Ausserlechner*, Will Tran*, Amy Peacock*, Eva Damarjati*, Emma Strapps*, Max Burgess*, Olivia Fyfe*, Kagiso Ratlhagane*, Rebecca Lane*, Jacqui Simmonds*, Jack Keogh*, Gretel Burgess*, Jack Riley*, Gevevieve Chan*, Emily Williams*, Rhiannon Brand*, Karin Ronning-Meagher*, Janine Ayres*, Caroline Phengrasmy*, Anushka Kumar*, Philippe Blanchard* and Nicole Crandell*

Australian Dance Week

Jess Ausserlechner*, Debora di Centa*, Fresh Funk*, Jazida*, Liz Lea*, QL2 Youth Ensemble, Alison Plevvey*, Project Beats Dance Studio*, Debbie Trotter Wharton*, Wiradjuri Echoes*

Technical Support Craig Dear

Connexions – Indigenous Mentoring

Dean Cross*, Tammi Gissell*, Steve Gow* and Chip Lo*

Escalate – Career Pathways

Mentors Douglas Amarfio*, Natalie Ayton*, Catherine Goss*, Liz Lea*, Paul Knobloch and Leena Wall

Technical Support Craig Dear

Youth Dance Festival

Creative Director and Choreographic Mentor Jamie Winbank*

Stage Manager Roni Wilkinson

Assistant Stage Managers Cerri Murphy, Samantha McNally and Karin Ronning-Meagher*

Rehearsal Manager Eamon Cross* and Liz Lea*

Production/Design KV Productions, Greg Primmer and Associates, Art Atelier Photography, Spinebill Design & Illustration

Volunteers Hikma Aroub, Maria Efkarpidis, Sarah Fyfe, community and student performers, staff and board members

Work Experience 19 work experience students stage crew for Youth Dance Festival from Lake Ginninderra College, Mount Stromlo High School, Gouburn High School, Canberra College, Gold Creek School, St John Paul II College, Melrose High School, Erindale College, Campbell High School, Narrabundah College, Melba Copland Secondary School and University of Canberra

Members

In the 40 years since it was established (as the Australian Association for Dance Education – AADE) the members of Ausdance ACT have been a key source of the organisation’s development and drive. Individual members who have contributed outstandingly to Ausdance ACT’s success over the years have been awarded life membership. Membership fees are relatively low (fees have to date been aligned nationally throughout the Ausdance Network).

Members today include: independent dance artists, a range of dance organisations, private dance studios, dance teachers and dance students, including at schools and colleges. In 2017 membership continued to be set at relatively low annual fees (membership rates can be viewed at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=264040>). We are always delighted to join up a recent graduate or new arrival to the Canberra scene and this happens quite regularly.

We are grateful to everyone who shows their support for Canberra-based dance and dancers, by being a member of Ausdance ACT.

Project Partners & Supporters

In 2017 Ausdance ACT’s largest single financial partner/supporter remained the **ACT Government**, through artsACT and the Education ACT. Total grant income from those two agencies represented around 53% 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.

Ausdance ACT’s programs simply could not happen without the support of our **non-government** community partners and sponsors. This was particularly relevant in 2017 as we continue to adapt to government grants which, in total, were lower than those we received as a Key Arts Organisation.

Australian Dance Week

artsACT

Ainslie & Gorman Arts Centres

Belconnen Arts Centre

QL2 Dance Canberra

Canberra Theatre Centre

Liz Lea Dance

Australian Dance Party

Action Theater

Move Up

Education ACT

Teacher Quality Institute

Independent Schools Association

Canberra Dance Theatre

Andrea McCuaig Design

Palace Electric Cinemas
Belconnen Fresh Food Markets
Rock Development
Andrea McCuaig Design
Canberra Hospital Foundation
Centenary Hospital for Women & Children
Mount Stromlo Observatory

Connexions

artsACT
Namadgi School

Escalate

artsACT
Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres
You Are Here
Cowra Ballet School
QL2 Dance
Fresh Funk
St Edmund's College
Kim Harvey School of Dance
SDS Studio
Bom Funk Dance Studio
MAKS Ballet Studio
Elite Dance Studio
Mude
Tuggeranong Arts Centre

Open Classes

artsACT
Belconnen Arts Centre
QL2 Dance Canberra
Lorna Sim Photography

Youth Dance Festival

artsACT

Community Inclusion Partner

Rock Development

Media Partners

WIN TV
Canberra Weekly
Hit 104.7 Canberra
Her Canberra

Production Partners

Art Atelier Photography
KV Productions
Canberra Theatre Centre
Spinebill Design & Illustration
Canberra Milk
Belluci's Italian
Greg Primmer & Associates
Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres
Broadbean Catering

President's Report

I have enormous pleasure in reporting that 2017 was a very creative, productive and successful year for Ausdance ACT.

This is to the great credit of the professional, hard-working, adaptable and inventive small team of part time Ausdance ACT employees. The consistent and wise support of board members has also been key to success.

In 2017 we again had the benefit of supportive financial and production partners. There is a full list elsewhere in this Annual Report but critically important to our success were the second of a two-year funding grant from artsACT and the final year of a three-year funding grant from Education ACT. Together these grants represented around 50% of all income, enabling us to provide arts jobs to deliver innovative programs.

Very pleasingly, there was consolidation in staffing, with appointment of **Emma Dykes** to a new role of Manager in the middle of the year. Emma continues with her responsibilities for marketing and communications and oversight of all programs. In addition, as Manager, Emma provides organisational representation, team co-ordination and operational accountability to the Board. **Olivia Fyfe's** continued engagement of a wide range of dance professionals from Canberra and interstate, to teach *Professional and Open Classes* and her efficient and caring administration of *Youth Dance Festival* are part of the fabric of Ausdance ACT's engagement in the Canberra dance community. **Liz Lea's** curatorship of *Dance Week, Escalate I and II* and *Connexions* indigenous mentoring program has brought exciting, inclusive, challenging and rewarding experiences to participants and audiences. In 2017 **Jamie Winbank** reprised his role of Creative Director and Choreographic Mentor for Youth Dance Festival, working with a new technical manager **Roni Wilkinson**.

Olivia, Liz and Jamie juggle teaching, rehearsing, performing (in Canberra and interstate) and other creative roles in their non-Ausdance work lives with their significant commitments to Ausdance ACT. It is gratifying that Ausdance ACT can provide these opportunities to them and to other dance artists engaged in our programs.

There was continuity and renewal of board membership. In May, we were delighted to have **Elle Morris** (dance professional and studio owner) join the board. **Nicole Price, Kym Degenhart, Sue Jones** and **Philip Phung** continued. In September **Susan Johnson** (Education ACT College teacher and leader) joined the board. The board continues to have a balance of legal, strategic, financial, business and dance education and performance experience and skills.

2017 ended with very pleasing news from the ACT Minister for the Arts, Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA. We were informed that Ausdance ACT's application for a further year of Program Funding, for 2018, was successful. Of particular satisfaction is the funding provided to meet the gap between actual core workload, due to Ausdance ACT's expanded programming, and the core staffing budget available 2015-2017.

Thank you

I want to record here my sincere thanks to every board member, especially office-holders Nicole Price, Kym Degenhart and Philip Phung. Special thanks must be added for Kym, who has been a key person in the *Connexions* program, through her teaching role at Namadgi School.

In 2017 we continued with energy, passion and skill, to develop Ausdance ACT's programs and services for the benefit of the dance community. I thank all team members and all project personnel for their devotion to dance in the ACT and to Ausdance ACT. It's such a pleasure to recognise your work.

I thank the ACT Government – through **artsACT** and **Education ACT** - for their financial support for the work of Ausdance ACT. Thank you also to **Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centre's** for their provision of accessible accommodation for our home base within this creative arts hub.

Finally, warm appreciation to **all our members, volunteers, private partners, and donors**. Your support for dance, dancers and Ausdance ACT is essential to our present and our future.

Lauren Honcope, President



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the audited financial statements of Ausdance ACT for the year ended December 2017.

At the close of 2017 Ausdance ACT remained in a sound financial position, posting an operating profit of \$13,167 and a retained equity of \$73,089.

The outstanding financial performance of Ausdance ACT in 2017 is the result of enthusiastic staff members committed to meeting the needs of the dance sector in the ACT.

Our main single source of income continued to be a grant from artsACT and 2017 was the second year of a two-year funding grant round from artsACT of \$90,900 per year and we delivered several successful programs.

We achieved an overall operating surplus for the year totaling \$13,167, as compared to our total operating surplus for the 2016 year of \$4,690.

Total income for the year of \$268,552 represented a 19% increase as compared to the 2016 year of \$217,297.

We note, however, that this income figure is considerably higher due to unused 2016 grant funding of \$36,144.66 being rolled over and accounted for in the 2017 year.

We enter 2018 in a strong financial position with funding from artsACT and look forward to expanding both our reach and impact over the next year.



Philip Phung

Treasurer



Ausdance ACT 2017 Youth Dance Festival Marist College,
Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier Photography

Meeting Requirements of Funding Bodies

Acquitting grants, updating programs and budgets

Ausdance ACT acquits funds granted to it by artsACT and by the ACT Education Directorate, as required. The requirements are quite detailed, as is appropriate for government grant funds.

In 2017, we acquitted the first year of the two-year program grant received from artsACT for 2016-2017. We also reported to the ACT Education Directorate on the second year of our three-year professional learning grant 2015-2017 for our Move Up Professional Learning Program.

Grant Application

In mid-2017 artsACT provided an opportunity to apply for a further year of Program Organisation Funding, for 2018. Ausdance ACT applied in September and was advised in December 2017 that the application was successful.

Major Project Summary

Programs funded by artsACT

1. Professional Dancers Support Program

- Escalate - Career Pathways Mentor Program

- Pay the Dancer Development Project

- Professional Classes

- Auspice services

- Professional Grant Services

2. Connexions - Indigenous Mentoring Program

3. Youth Dance Festival (Choreographic services)

4. Australian Dance Week

Program funded by Education ACT

Ausdance ACT presented **Move Up**, a professional learning program for teachers of dance in upper primary, high schools and colleges, supported by a grant of \$15,000 pa over 3 years 2015-2017.

Move Up Professional Learning

2017 marked the third and final year of a three-year ACT Education Directorate grant for Ausdance ACT's Move Up program of Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) accredited professional learning workshops for upper primary and secondary teachers, to support the effective delivery of dance education in the Australian curriculum, as implemented in the ACT.

In 2017 the Move Up program was consolidated into an intensive week of professional learning in January rather than across the year. This change was made in response to teacher surveys that indicated the start of the teaching year is the best time for professional learning as it can then be implemented across their full year's program.

Move Up practical dance workshops are complemented by supporting material and school visits to assist teachers implement the dance elements of the national curriculum.

Ausdance ACT put together a program featuring outstanding industry leaders. The week started with a workshop led by Dr Katrina Rank, a leading Australian educator and dance artist renowned for her specialist education and training programs. Katrina's workshop focussed on the use of Laban effort qualities to create student centred choreography, developing technical competence, improvisation and creative discovery.

Day 2 featured a fantastic range of cultural styles presented in a fun and dynamic environment - Bollywood with Liz Lea, Fan Dancing with Rachel Reid, Brazilian with Kirstie McMillan and Swing with the Canberra Swing Katz. Participants were provided with a range of routines that could be taken back into the classroom as well as comprehensive resources supporting each style.

Day 3 featured a Back to Basics session with Canberra based independent dance artist and teacher, Olivia Fyfe. This session provided insight into teaching students with little to no dancing ability. Providing a class that focussed on safe technique, awareness of space and body movement and how to make the basics fun. The day continued with Musical Theatre sessions with Kurt Phelan. Kurt's workshop focussed on active ways to encourage students to come up with and create their own work, through activities and exercises aimed at students taking charge of their art form.

Day 4 was hosted by Charlie and Anthony Bartley and focussed on the styles of jazz funk and hip hop. These sessions explored opening new creative paths for teachers to pass along to their students and involved breaking down its dynamics regarding physicality and intention as well as lessons in improvisation, spontaneity and musicality.

Day 5 focussed on contemporary dance with Artistic Director of Phluxus2 Dance Collective Nerida Matthaiei. In this workshop, participants learnt repertoire from Nerida's work, *angel-monster* and were led through tasks relating to the creative process. The week finished with *The Duet* between Camera and Dancer Workshop with award winning choreographer and film maker Sue Healey. The aim of this workshop was to awaken the senses to create, capture and shape movement for the camera and the screen.

The Education grant enabled Ausdance ACT, for a third year, to bring together dance teacher professional learners and expert dance tutors at a price acceptable and manageable for teachers and their schools. The workshops also provided valuable connections between those professional learners and the expert tutors, with flow on effects and future in school student workshops scheduled. Participant's feedback both through the online TQI Program Evaluations and in response to Ausdance ACT's own pre and post evaluation forms was extremely positive and valuable feedback was given.

Ausdance ACT delivered a full and dynamic program that allowed teachers to create their own professional learning package choosing the workshops that suited them best.



Ausdance ACT 2017 Move Up Professional Learning
Design Andrea McCuaig



Ausdance ACT 2017 Move Up Professional Learning
Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier Photography

Open Classes

In 2017 Ausdance ACT Open Class continued its collaboration with Belconnen Arts Centre on Wednesday mornings with its professional class (Pro Class) geared towards professionals and independent artists, primarily contemporary dancers. We also saw the addition of a second class for intermediate to professional dancers, of all dance genres, held at QL2 Dance Studio at Gorman Arts Centre on Thursday evenings.

Classes are low-cost and have given professional dancers and advanced dancers their own work space independent of commercial studios or youth dance structures.

Pro and Open Classes are led by dancers on a one to two-week cycle. Any intermediate to professional level dancer is welcome, local or just visiting.

Our focus for the Open Classes was to expand the number of teachers we could present, and in turn provide work for the professional community. It was also important to bring in new teachers from different backgrounds in dance to share their passion, knowledge and skill.

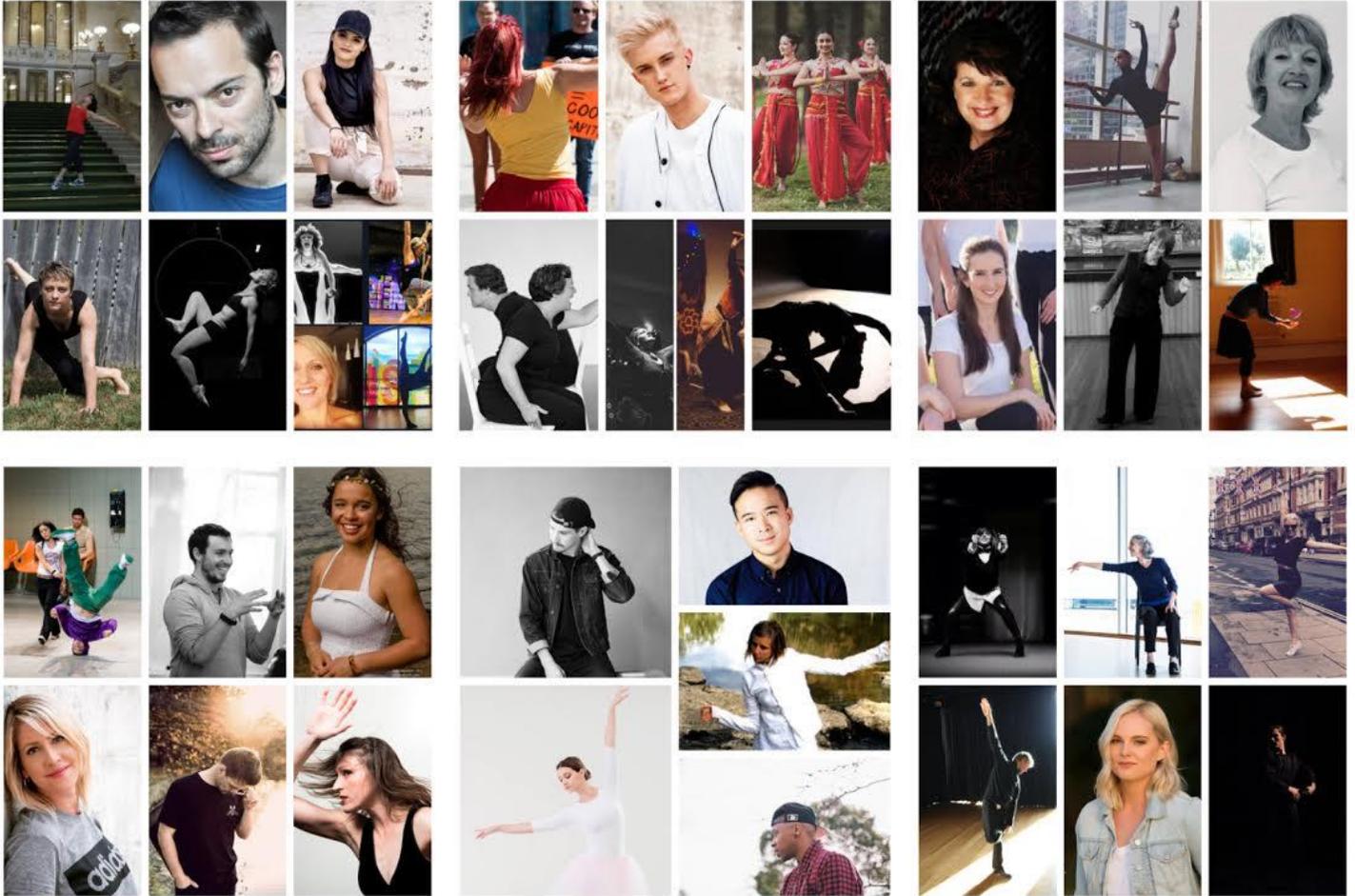
We hosted thirty-six teachers across 2017 including Alison Plevy, Jamie Winbank, Jacqui Simmonds, Caroline Wall, Debora Di Centa, Carissa Jae, Matt Cornell, Eliza Sanders, Melissa Markos, Philip Pigg, Ruth Osborne, Eamon Cross, Ellie Mostyn, Debbie Trotter-Wharton, Jess Ausserlechner, Will Tran, Amy Peacock, Eva Damarjati, Emma Strapps, Max Burgess, Olivia Fyfe, Kagiso Ratlhagane, Rebecca Lane, Jacqui Simmonds, Jack Keogh, Gretel Burgess, Jack Riley, Gevevieve Chan, Emily Williams, Rhiannon Brand, Karin Ronning-Meagher, Janine Ayres, Caroline Phengrasmy, Anushka Kumar, Philippe Blanchard and Nicole Crandell. 2017 we more than doubled the number of teachers who taught in 2016 and covered sixteen different styles of dance.

Pro Class attendance was small in numbers due to the intimate nature of the professional independent scene in Canberra. The class has been fundamental in bringing together dancers on a regular basis and numerous project collaborations have arisen from this opportunity as per previous years.

Open Class has been popular in attendance, with a slight drop over the cold season. Starting off as a class for intermediate dancers and above it has brought in many professionals who could not attend the Wednesday morning Pro Class due to their busy schedules. Open Class has seen attendance from a variety of dancers from different styles to and helped them network and expand their awareness of who's who in the Canberra dance community.

We continued Open Class advertising through our regular emails, Facebook, Twitter with the new addition of Instagram, as well as a new run of post cards scattered about Canberra.

2017 Open Class Teachers



Australian Dance Week

Australian Dance Week is about celebrating dance in all its forms and encouraging everyone to have a go, try something new, and 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 performances and free classes.

Ausdance ACT's 2017 Dance Week program was the biggest Australian Dance Week celebration of dance across Australia, befitting of the Nation's Capital. Celebrations commenced on Saturday 29th April, International Dance Day, and ran through until Sunday 7th May.

Ausdance ACT's Australian Dance Week was innovative, engaging and a fantastic success that highlighted the diversity and quality of dance making in Canberra. Our primary aims for Dance Week are the promotion of our dance community in all its forms, the presentation of dance in all spaces for all to enjoy and to provide employment opportunities for independent and emerging dance artists.

Our Dance Week program was launched on Saturday 29th April at the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets by Minister for the Arts and Community Events Gordon Ramsay MLA with performances by Wiradjuri Echoes, Belconnen Art Centre's Feel the Music Deaf Dancers, Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD Company and Fabulous Fan Dancers, Independent dance artist Olivia Fyfe, OPA-cize Greek Dance Fitness, Bedazzled Bellydance, Elena Wong School of Dance, Project Beats Dance Studio, Fresh Funk and dance artists from Ausdance ACT's youth mentoring program Escalate. The launch was Auslan Interpreted by Deborah Hayes. It was a wholly inclusive, joyful and diverse event which rightly celebrated dance across Canberra and attracted a large and engaged crowd.

Other Dance Week highlights included:

2017 saw the continuation of Ausdance ACT's initiative to take dance into the paediatric ward of Canberra Hospital. Ausdance ACT worked with independent artists to take imagination, music and movement to young patients and their families at The Canberra Hospital.

Ausdance ACT supported the presentation of *In Sync*, by Liz Lea and Alison Plevey, an evening of dance and science. Two of Canberra's most prolific dance artists presented a series of dance works inspired by scientific research – ecology, psychology, medical research, technology in a season at the Canberra Theatre Centre's Courtyard Studio. QL2 Dance also presented a new work choreographed by Jack Ziesing for the QL2 Youth Ensemble. It was a strong and eclectic evening with generous support from the Canberra Theatre Centre.

A Dance Week favourite made a return appearance, Belconnen Arts Centre presented *Dance on the Edge* featuring independent artists Alison Plevey, Olivia Fyfe, Holly Diggie, Deborah di Centa, Emma Strapps, Eliza Sanders and visiting artists Paul Jesseph Hickman and Kathleen Lott.

Liz Lea and Collaborators presented The Galaxy Project at Mount Stromlo Observatory during a public observing night. The event featured dance and the stars and involved performers of all ages including Liz Lea, Jazida, Liz Rainbow, Debora di Centa, Amy Macris and dancer elders from the GOLD Company.

Ausdance ACT's long-standing partnership with the Rock Development continued with Dance Displays on both Saturday 29th April and Saturday 6th May – two days of fabulous dance highlighting the diversity of our dance community on stage at the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets.

The Ausdance ACT Australian Dance Week celebrations received considerable media attention and coverage and was well supported by audiences.

Dance Week events enabled the employment of professional dance artists, as well as the engagement of community artists and further developed the event as an important one on the Canberra arts landscape.



Dancer Hikma Aroub, 2017 Australian Dance Week
Photo Lorna Sim, Design Andrea McCuaig



Liz Lea & Alison Plevy 'In Sync' 2017 Australian Dance Week. Photo Lorna Sim



Belconnen Art Centre's Feel the Music Deaf Dancers
Photo Emma Dykes



Jump Town Swing, 2017 Australian Dance Week
Photo Olivia Fyfe

Youth Dance Festival

In its 33rd year, Youth Dance Festival (Dance Fest as it is affectionately known) continued with yet another successful year. A long-time feature on the Canberra arts and education calendar, Ausdance ACT's Youth Dance Festival celebrates a second generation of participants and with a proud alumni and legacy. 36 schools presented 53 original dance works featuring 1,100 students, over 3 massive nights at the Canberra Theatre Centre.

After 2016's addition of a choreographed work created by Jamie Winbank (Youth Dance Festivals Creative Director and Choreographic Mentor, CDCM) we continued this opportunity for 2017. The work brought together sixteen students from across a wide range of participating schools and opened with a short film featuring the students discussing the creative process and behind the scenes rehearsal footage.

"This year we encourage you to think about the world you live in right here, right now. This is your chance to reflect on the past, make commentary of the present and envision the future."

Jamie Winbank – Right Here. Right Now. Creative Director and Choreographic Mentor

Ausdance ACT's Youth Dance Festival Dance Fest provides the opportunity for students to dance in a professional theatre environment. It is a non-competitive celebration of dance that embraces differences, creativity, team work and building relationships. Students are provided with a safe and supportive environment to be creative, self-express and partake in a rich artistic process. Dance Fest is student driven, the students do the creative part - the choreography, selecting the music, costuming, any props, ideas about lighting, with the teacher's guidance and administrative support.

We celebrate dance, of any kind, of any culture. We encourage the dancers to choose their own music, create their own dance, introduce their own dance works, we want to hear their 'voice'. Ausdance ACT believes everyone can dance and Youth Dance Festival provides the perfect vehicle.

Ticket sales were good with 2,010 tickets sold. Ticket prices were held at the previous year's level due to an increase in recent years. Ticket sales were down a little on previous year's largely due to a reduction in school participation. This reduction was due to the timing of Youth Dance Festival being in week 10 of term 3. This date was selected due to the venue availability of the Canberra Theatre. Early negotiations with the Canberra Theatre Centre have resulted in Ausdance ACT securing our preferred week in the Canberra Theatre for the 2018 Youth Dance Festival.

Media coverage was strong – particularly from Media Partners, Her Canberra, WIN News and Canberra Weekly. The event attracted considerable in-kind support.

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

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 Greg Primmer and Associates 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, work experience and volunteers, and school participation rates year after year prove the worth and value of running Youth Dance Festival in Canberra, far beyond any monetary value.

2017 developments included:

- **Opening Work Film, created by CDCM Jamie Winbank**
- **Snap Chat filter for students to use over Production Week boosting overall promotion**
- **Behind the scenes photography from Art Atelier Photography for Life in Canberra**
- **Filmed finale inclusion of Black Mountain School (special needs school) students**



2017 Youth Dance Festival Opening Piece Rehearsal
Photo Lorna Sim



2017 Youth Dance Festival back stage
Photo Life in Canberra



2017 Youth Dance Festival St Francis Xavier College
Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier Photography

Escalate I and II

Escalate is Ausdance ACT's career pathways youth mentoring program funded by artsACT. The program is cross genre and enables young dance artists to explore different movement styles while being guided and supported through the three-month creative process by a team of dance mentors.



Ausdance ACT Escalate I, Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier

The mentors assist and guide young choreographers and dancers through the process of creation from initial concept to the presentation of a short work as part of a performance season at the Ralph Wilson Theatre at Gorman Arts Centre.

Our primary mentors across both Escalate programs in 2017 were Leena Wall, Liz Lea and Douglas Amarfio. They were joined by interstate mentors Paul Knobloch, Catherine Goss and Natalie Ayton.

The first Escalate program ran from January through until April 2017 and the second program ran from June through to September 2017.

Both Escalate I and II were supported by Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centre through the provision of subsidised rehearsal and performance venue space. This support was invaluable to the project and provided a fantastic home base for the young artists involved.

The Escalate I program mentored the following young artists, Hikma Aroub, Hayley Barker, Nuysia Kalamafoni, Jacob Brown, Divyusha Polepalli, Charlotte Whiter and Mikayla Brady and was presented as part of the You Are Here Festival.

The Escalate II program mentored Carly Carter, Emily Bell, Sasha Deminaenko and Melissa Fawke and was presented as an independent season.

They were joined by dancers Elliot Dunn, Sabrina Madaffari, Marcel Cole, Imajen James, Grace Gallagher, Jess McLeish, Brigette Healy, Lizzie Rice, Clare Flood, Kajsa Davis, Emily Prior, Taylor Burge, Ciahne Olsen, Stephanie Zaal, Amy Macris, Nishi Raj, Archana Sanu and Taylah Matesa.

The Escalate I season also featured two short dance films from QL2 Dance Canberra's Hot to Trot season, 'Travelling Light' by Natsuko Yonezawa, and 'Blink' by Nasim Patel and Luke Fryer.

The Escalate II season featured two dance films by urban dance choreographer Eamon Cross, 'Wall to Wall' and 'De's Vu'.

We also partnered with Tuggeranong and Belconnen Arts Centres for Escalate II and presented works from their mentoring programs. Tuggeranong Arts Centre's Fresh Faced Young Choreographers initiative, presented "The Hunger Games", choreographed by Sarah Etherington and Melissa Markos and Katie

Senior and Liz Lea's work 'That Extra 'Some' which was developed as part of Belconnen Arts Centre's Ignite Creatives program premiered during the Escalate season.

These were valuable cross connections and have further strengthened Ausdance ACT's relationship with our local arts centres.

Escalate has proven to be an excellent project for bringing young artists working in different genres and from across the region together through dance. Our mentors are experienced and passionate artists who have nurtured and tutored these young artists through the process of conceiving, casting, developing, rehearsing, managing and presenting a complete dance work. These skills will be used throughout their lives.

Canberra Critics Circle said:



Ausdance ACT Escalate I
Photo Andrew Sikorski, Art Atelier

'Alternating hip-hop influenced unison and solo sections the dancers impressed with their strong individual personalities and movement styles.'

'...the four dancers worked particularly well together to interpret Barkers' carefully constructed choreography.'

'The gorgeously costumed dancers fascinated with their command of the technique in an artistic work which successfully tested boundaries.'

Canberra CityNews said:

'...the most outstanding work of the night was undoubtedly a beautifully realised, and unexpectedly moving creation called "That Extra 'Some". Choreographed and performed by Down Syndrome dance artist Katie Senior and Liz Lea, "That Extra 'Some" used footage from a short film, "Beautiful", together with music from a variety of sources, to create an elegiac work celebrating a remarkable friendship. The sensitivity with which the work has been constructed, the unselfconscious trust and joy displayed in performance, combine to produce a remarkable dance work which should be experienced by a much larger audience than will have that opportunity at these two performances.'



Ausdance ACT Escalate II, Photo Lorna Sim

Connexions - Indigenous Mentoring

Ausdance ACT Connexions Indigenous Mentoring Program focuses on bringing together Indigenous students and connecting them with artists.

The program ran over four workshop style sessions in 2017 and enabled Indigenous students of Namadgi School to connect with each other through dance and with dance artists.

After seeking advice from several experienced dance professionals and those working with Indigenous youth, it was decided the program needed to run within school hours in order to assist with student attendance. Our working relationship with Namadgi School has been invaluable in the early success of this program. We have also been able to welcome Indigenous students from Orana Steiner School, Jerrabomberra Public School and Karabar High School to participate in the program.

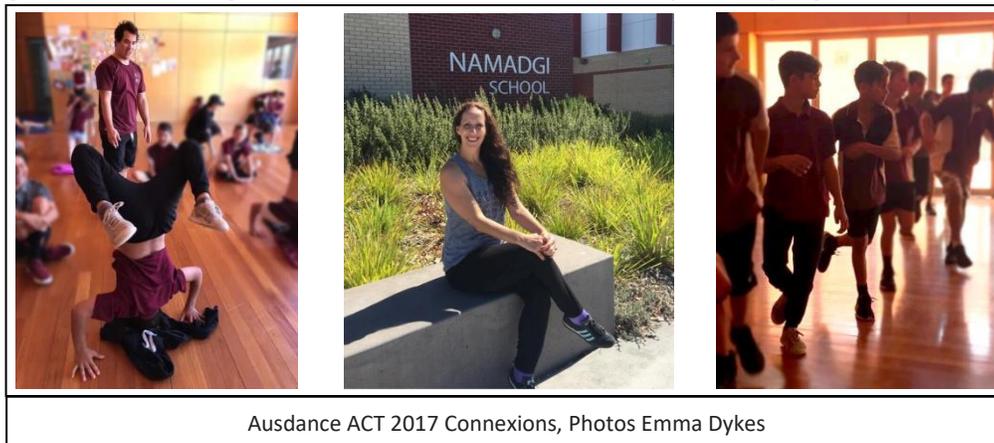
Our first Connexions workshop was led by renowned Indigenous dance artist, Tammi Gissell. Tammi taught traditional movement and talked with the students about their connections to family and country.

Dean Cross led the second workshop. Dean has recently identified as Indigenous and his workshop was based around creating movement from a western contemporary dance perspective.

The third workshop was led by Steve Gow teaching hip hop. This workshop was particularly well received, and we set up the fourth and final workshop for 2017 again with Steve who was joined by Chip Lo. As non-Indigenous men they shared their Chinese heritage and background and the culture of hip hop. As the class size has grown to approximately 25 with many young men involved it was necessary to have not only two dance teachers but also an additional dance teacher to support the workshop leader and Namadgi School staff.

Overwhelming feedback has been that the workshops enable the students to come together in ways they normally would not and that this was the only program in the school that directly impacted on Indigenous social inclusion within cultures of the First People.

Connecting with and enabling students from additional schools to join the program is our future aim.



Auspices, Grant Assistance, Artist Support, Marketing & Special Projects

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.

With her extensive arts marketing and publicity background Emma Dykes actively promoted the work and programs of dance activity in the Canberra region and provided an increased level of marketing, communication and media support and advice to local artists and members.

In the absence of funding Ausdance ACT provided some support to Liz Lea's project The BOLD Festival in the form of marketing and staffing resources during the festival.

Ausdance ACT continued to provide support for local dance artists in the form of management services for grants.

Over the course of the year Ausdance ACT auspiced grants for James Batchelor's Deep Space/Proscenium project which was funded by artsACT as well as Liz Lea's project grant from artsACT for her the development of her work RED.

Grant development services and support were provided for Jazida Productions' Alternate Affair Festival, Andrea McCuaig's Biennale of Australian Art cross art form project and Liz Lea's one woman show RED project applications to artsACT. Support was also provided for Alison Plevy and the CORRIDOR project's application to the Australia Council for The Shearer's Ballet.

We were thrilled to have the opportunity to work with our colleagues at Belconnen Arts Centre to present a day of inclusive dance as part of their Detonate celebrations to coincide with International Day of People with Disability - Australia in December 2017. The community were invited to experience the delights of dance through an open dance workshop in the morning, catering to all levels of ability and mobility. It was followed by an opportunity to participate in an open forum exploring the relationship between dance and wellbeing. Along with a rich program of dance performances with dancers and groups from around the ACT. The day concluded with a screening of Meryl Tankard's very moving film of Michelle's Story.

Extracts from Financial Statements

Australian Dance Council Ausdance (ACT) Incorporated

ABN 36 761 904 224

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue	4 268,552	201,853
Donations	-	15,444
Employee Benefits Expenses	(84,931)	(78,875)
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	-	(339)
Other Expenses	(91,337)	(57,079)
Youth Dance Festival Expenses	(79,117)	(76,313)
Profit before income tax	13,167	4,691
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit from continuing operations	13,167	4,691
Profit for the year	13,167	4,691
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		
Total comprehensive income for the year	13,167	4,691

Australian Dance Council Ausdance (ACT) Incorporated

ABN 36 761 984 224

Statement of Financial Position

31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	86,444	120,071
Trade and other receivables	7	3,034	3,971
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		89,478	124,042
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		89,478	124,042
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	6,325	10,822
Employee benefits	10	9,938	6,511
Other liabilities		126	46,787
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		16,389	64,120
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		16,389	64,120
NET ASSETS		73,089	59,922
EQUITY			
Reserves	11	53,364	53,364
Retained earnings		19,725	6,558
TOTAL EQUITY		73,089	59,922