

**TANTRUM**  
*youth arts*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

# 2015 Chair's Report

2015 was another significant year for Tantrum Youth Arts. Following the implementation of our new strategic direction to support emerging artists, we've seen very positive outcomes and ground breaking productions in the form of *No One Cares About Your Cat* and *Stories in Our Steps*. On top of this 'The Wyong Project', as well as delivering dynamic workshops and *Hissyfest Wyong*, culminated in the delivery of the commissioned play *Trailer* by Vanessa Bates, our first commissioned play in five years. We thank the ArtsNSW Regional Theatre Fund for their support of this two year initiative.

The success of our program is testament to the dedication and hard work of the Tantrum team that subsequently has enabled us to continue to make our presence felt and valued by the Newcastle community.

In turn, I know the staff value the contribution of the board, who work tirelessly to oversee and support the strategic direction of the company. I'd like to thank all our board for their contribution.

This year we saw the baton passed from some long standing board members to some highly skilled fresh faces. I'd like to thank Mel Woodward for driving the significant improvements to our financial bottom line over the last two years, Bradley McDonald and Anna Kerrigan each who have contributed their arts and education expertise over the last three years. We warmly welcome our new board members: HR professional Connie Plesko, Accountant Rachel McKenna, and Education executive Bree Harvey-Bice, as well as staff members Tristram Baumber and Lucy Shepherd.

In these continued uncertain times for the arts sector, we are especially grateful to ArtsNSW for their ongoing support. Without them, we would not be able to do what we do. Similarly we rely on the support from our project partners: Port Of Newcastle,

Wyong Shire Council, The University of Newcastle, The Department of Social Services and the Ministry for the Arts ANZAC fund. Thanks must also go to our wonderful community support base, whose commitment and generosity in pledging to our first ever crowd funding campaign enabled us to stage and tour *No One Cares About Your Cat*.

The most important people are our ongoing participants and their families, and we thank them for collaborating with us to create great contemporary theatre in Newcastle. As the year draws to a close we are thrilled to have returned to our former home at Newcastle Community Arts Centre in Newcastle West. Being part of a creative supportive environment greatly enhances our capacity to focus on our core business. We look forward to a prosperous year in 2016 as a result.

## **Christopher Saunders**

Chair, Tantrum Youth Arts Board of Directors



# 2015

## Artistic Director's Report

This was a successful and steady year for Tantrum, seeing many of our projects mature into the next stage. Our program of activities reinforced our rebranding to Tantrum Youth Arts in 2014, reflecting the contemporary, cross-artform nature of our work. The key values of our new artistic vision; collaboration, inclusion and excellence, remained at the heart of our activities. We firmly supported collaborations between young, emerging and professional artists, engaged with our communities through partnerships and place, and created dynamic new performance works highly valued by audiences. At year's end, we also posted a modest surplus.

Following the success of *Diving off the Edge of the World*, we started the year with *Stories in our Steps*; a multi-artform, site-specific, collaboratively devised new work, involving a theatrical time travelling tour down Watt Street. A map drawn by young people guided audiences to several historical sites, where secret histories were revealed and interpreted by over 60 young and emerging artists. A team of six professional artists worked collaboratively with local historians and young and emerging artists, to develop a series of short performance works described by critics as "stunning", "powerful" and "utterly beautiful". *Stories in our Steps* was a magical evening that illuminated local history in an engaging, contemporary, theatrical experience. It could not have happened without the support from our partners: Port of Newcastle, Arts NSW, Ministry for the Arts, City of Newcastle and numerous volunteers.

Our second major production of the year, *No One Cares About Your Cat*, was a commission to local contemporary theatre makers Paper Cut, to develop a new, devised, contemporary theatre work with a team of Tantrum's emerging artists. Paper Cut led this dedicated team through a rigorous, three stage creative development process, genuinely placing the emerging artists at the centre of the process, enabling them to really shape and drive the development of the show. The result was an honest

and provocative look at social media from their perspective, interrogating how it informs and affects our connections with others. Creative partnerships with the University of Newcastle saw collaborations with music and visual arts students to develop the outstanding sound design, and compelling visual projection. David Williams provided dramaturgical assistance, mentorship and acted as an outside eye, enhancing the show's cohesion and providing professional development to the artists involved. The support for the development of this show was outstanding; successfully raising \$10 000 through crowd funding to bring this show to life and tour it to Sydney. The critical appreciation was similarly overwhelming, with the work winning three City of Newcastle Drama Awards: Best New Play, Best Sound Design and Best Lighting/ Audio Visual Design. Thank you to all the supporters that made this production possible, and ArtsNSW.

Other opportunities for young and emerging artists continued through *Hissyfest*, Tantrum's annual short play festival. Now in its third year in Newcastle, it continues to build capacity for emerging writers, directors, actors and producers. With record numbers of participation in 2015, *Hissyfest* Newcastle is growing from strength to strength, becoming an accessible and respected platform for young, emerging, independent and community artists to take risks, develop new skills, and stretch themselves across every part of the theatre-making process, as well as network and collaborate with other local artists. 'Hissyfest Wyong' was also delivered as stage two of *The Wyong Project* (funded by ArtsNSW Regional Theatre Fund, placing Tantrum as artists-in-residence in Wyong from 2014-16). 'Hissyfest Wyong' uniquely empowered young and emerging artists from the Central Coast as writers, actors, directors and producers, introducing them to and celebrating them as the creators of original, new work. Stage three of *The Wyong Project* saw the commission and production of a new play from Vanessa Bates - *Trailer*, which opens in Wyong in 2016.

In addition to this, we delivered a number of smaller projects in collaboration with various community organisations. The creative development for our upcoming multi-arts, site-specific project for 2017, *Lapping the Lake*, in partnership with Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council (LMYAC), began in the July school holidays. 'Antigone' and 'Love is Friendship', two short films developed as part of *The Antigone Project* in 2014, were revived and presented at the Multicultural Film Festival delivered in partnership by Tantrum Youth Arts and Northern Settlement Services. The creative partnership with Newcastle Region Library saw Tantrum continue to employ an emerging artist to devise and present the *Wacky Wombat* program, bringing stories to life for pre-schoolers through performance, song, dance and craft. The future of *Opening Doors*, Tantrum's theatre-in-education experience, developed in partnership with Community Legal Service Delivery network (CLSD), was also secured by successful funding in 2015, allowing *Opening Doors* to engage over 18 schools in 2016.

Tantrum's afterschool Creative Drama Workshop Program continued to engage young people K-12 in the process of collaborative and inclusive theatre making practices, developing a series of comical and

heart-warming stories for our end of year showcase 'Making it', held at the Civic Playhouse in December.

Tantrum's 2015 program of activities strengthened our company and enabled us to reinforce who we are, and why we are important. Our creative community partnerships, and commitment to young and emerging artists, define our projects, which are highly valued by audiences. Our achievements this year required enormous dedication from the Tantrum staff and Board, maintaining ongoing relationships, fostering new ideas and partnerships for the future and creating pathways for emerging artists to flourish. It's been a wonderful year, made even more wonderful by the community's support during our move to the Newcastle Community Arts Centre in October. This year saw Tantrum consolidate its position as the leading professional Youth Arts Company in Newcastle and the Hunter. Thanks for a fabulous year - we are very much looking forward to the next!

**Lucy Shepherd**  
Acting Artistic Director and CEO  
Tantrum Youth Arts

# 2015 Major Projects

## Stories in our Steps

**Watt Street, Newcastle**  
10 - 19 April 2015

Stories in our Steps was a multi-artform, devised, site-specific work, involving a theatrical time travel tour for audiences down Newcastle's oldest street, Watt Street. The tour stopped at several sites using a map drawn by young Tantrum members. At each site, the audience experienced live performance uncovering and interpreting local histories and perspectives from pre-colonisation to present day. Dreaming stories were told at James Fletcher Park; the Industrial School for Girls was uncovered at James Fletcher Hospital; WWI memorial plaques remembered fallen soldiers at St Philips Presbyterian Church; Arthur Greenhalgh welcomed us to his famous 'Beach Hotel' at Watt Street Commercial; the night of the Star Hotel Riots was revived at the Lock Up; and finally dreams of the future were shared at Pacific Park.

The project engaged over 60 young and emerging artists that collaborated with six professional artists and local historians in the development, performance and production of this work. It featured two creative community partnerships; City of Newcastle's 'Past Present Future' Aboriginal Youth Arts program directed by Ray Kelly Jr, and Flipside Youth Dance directed by Cadi McCarthy.

The performance event was complemented by an exhibition at Newcastle Library and video projections along Watt Street as part of City Evolutions. Other partners involved were Hunter Institute of Mental Health, National Trust, Newcastle Council and Newcastle Now. Major support came from Port of Newcastle, Ministry for the Arts and ArtsNSW.

Stories in Our Steps was well received by critics and audiences and received a nomination for best theatrical event at the 2015 City Of Newcastle Drama Awards.

Total number of attendees: 802  
(representing a sellout season)

### PROJECT CREATIVES & CREW

**Artistic Director / Producer:**  
Amy Hardingham

**Associate Producer:**  
Jocelyne Lamarche

**Concept:**  
Amy Hardingham & Lucy Shepherd

**Site Directors:** James Chapman,  
Lucy Shepherd, Cadi McCarthy, Amy  
Hardingham, Marjorie Butcher  
& Tamara Gazzard

### Technical Manager & Lighting

**Designer:** Lyndon Buckley

**Technical Manager:** Nik Lyons

**Backstage Manager:**  
Chloe McKinnon

**Graphic Design, Photography,  
Marketing & Front of House:**  
Claire Albrecht

**Videography:** James Edwards

**Costumes:**  
Kaswyn Hunt, Victoria Phyllis, Amy  
Hardingham, Lucy Shepherd, Norah  
Groves & Tamara Gazzard

**Music:** Zackari Watt, Huw Jones

**Dressers / Crew:** Harley Hunt, Emily  
Hibberd, Lili Duffield

**Volunteers:** Brandon McIntosh,  
Samantha Willcox, Sarah Head, Don  
Osbourne, Chris Mangano, Nikki  
Grant, Erin Beard, Terri Probert, Ariane  
Madden Neale, Bree Harvey-Bice,  
Norah Groves, Connie Plesko, Rachel  
McKenna, Ingrid Laycock

**Consultant historians:**  
Dr Ann Hardy, Jane Ison, Bronwyn Law

**Illustrations by:** Alice Roberts, Ella  
Harrison-Virag, Lana Cossettini, Laria  
Crawford, Lilly Kime, Logan Crawford

"I expected to enjoy it, I didn't expect to be utterly blown away by it ... It was stunning, it was powerful, it was utterly beautiful ... needs an entirely new book of superlatives for me to do it justice."

**Blog review,**  
Pink Patent Mary Janes





"A really innovative concept with laughs, tears, reflective moments and lots of movement and colour..."  
Audience member

# 2015 Major Projects

## No One Cares About Your Cat

**The Civic Playhouse, Newcastle** 16 September - 19 September  
**ATYP, Studio One, The Wharf Sydney** 30 September - 3 October  
**Crack Theatre Festival, Newcastle** 4 October

*No One Cares About Your Cat* was an exploration of human connection in a world dominated by increasingly attractive and addictive social technologies. It investigated some of the absurdities of social media use and examined their effect on communication skills and social etiquette, our sense of connectedness and community, and innate tendencies towards narcissism and self-interest.

*No One Cares About Your Cat* was commissioned from contemporary performance collective Paper Cut who worked with a group of five 18-26 year old Tantrum participants to develop the work over a 10 month period. David Williams (Version 1.0) acted as Dramaturge, mentor and outside eye. The project featured a collaboration with the University of Newcastle which saw emerging artists from the Faculty of Creative Arts collaborating on the project as sound and video/ projection artists. *No One Cares About Your Cat* performed successful seasons at Civic Playhouse and atyp Sydney.

*No One Cares About Your Cat* was highly praised both by critics and audiences and won awards for Best New Play, Best Sound Design and Best Lighting/ Audio Visual Design at the 2015 City Of Newcastle Drama Awards.

Major support for *No One Cares About Your Cat* came from the community. Tantrum ran a successful Pozible campaign, raising \$10 000 to get this show up and running. Other support came from Arts NSW, University of Newcastle, City of Newcastle and atyp.

**Total number of attendees:**  
**Newcastle 377**  
**Sydney 220**

### PROJECT CREATIVES & CREW

**Created by:**  
Sarah Coffee, Tamara Gazzard,  
Lucy Shepherd (Paper Cut)  
with Zoe Anderson, James  
Chapman, Emily Daly, Sam  
De Lyall, Britt Ferry, Jocelyne  
Lamarche and Jemima Webber

**Dramaturg:**  
David Williams

**Production Design:**  
Paper Cut - with special thanks  
to Tobias Horrocks (Freefold  
Stool) Fold Theory and Steve  
Wintercroft (Cat Mask Design)

**Lighting Design:**  
Lyndon Buckley

**Sound Design:**  
Jess Blackburn, Julia Rutten  
and Melanie Coombes

**Technology Design:**  
Tim Buchanan

**Technology Artist:**  
David Lobb



# 2015 Other Projects



## Opening Doors

*Opening Doors* is a theatre-in-education experience written and directed by Tamara Gazzard. It informs and empowers young people with accurate legal information about sexting and domestic violence through live performance. It provides students with the opportunity to interact with, and ask questions of, the actors and people on stage and involves a real police officer and solicitor as part of the performance. This project is delivered in partnership with Co-operative Legal Service Delivery who coordinate all the legal and statistical aspects of the project.

Following a successful tour to ten schools in Newcastle and the Hunter in 2014, we hoped to extend the delivery of the project in 2015 and tour it to approximately eight schools across the Central Coast, and Upper and Lower Hunter, but unfortunately we were not able to fund the delivery of the performances. Our focus shifted to sourcing funding for 2016, which was successful, receiving funds from The Kirby Foundation and NIB, which will allow us to perform *Opening Doors* for 18 schools in 2016 as a result.

## Lapping the Lake

In the June school holidays Tantrum partnered with Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Council (LMYAC) to begin the research and development for *Lapping the Lake*, Tantrum's major multi-arts, participatory, site-specific work for 2017.

A performance laboratory was held at the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery from 30 June to 2 July, which brought together a small group of emerging artists from Lake Macquarie. They collaboratively engaged in a series of tasks and activities exploring the relationship between place and identity. Emerging theatre makers aged 14-20 years worked alongside Lucy Shepherd, exploring connections between memory and place, personal stories, mapping, and concepts of movement and stillness, and progression and stagnation. Together they created a series of short works performed on the foreshore of Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. The development of *Lapping the Lake* was supported by Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, LMYAC and ArtsNSW.



## The Wyong Project / Hissyfest Wyong

*The Wyong Project* was a capacity building project that saw Tantrum as artists-in-residence in Wyong 2014-2016. In 2015, stages two and three of *The Wyong Project* were delivered. This brought the Hissyfest model to Wyong, engaging 38 participants as actors, writers, directors and crew, including participation from the workshop participants from stage one of the project. This festival uniquely empowered young and emerging artists from the Coast as creators, it engaged local emerging artist Joshua Maxwell as producer, and celebrated the creation and celebration of new, original work. *Hissyfest Wyong* was performed on 12th & 13th June at The Grove Community and Cultural Hub in Wyong.

Stage 3 of the project, the commission and production of a new play from Vanessa Bates (funded by ArtsNSW Regional Theatre Fund) resulted in *Trailer*, a new darkly comic play. *Trailer* was developed with the support of Playwriting Australia at the National Script Workshop 2015. *Trailer* will premiere at the Central Coast's newest performing arts centre, The Art House, Wyong, in May 2016. It will also tour to atyp June 2016, and has been programmed in the Newcastle Civic Theatre's subscription season June 2016. *The Wyong Project* is a partnership with Wyong Shire Council, and supported by Arts NSW Regional Theatre Fund and ArtsNSW.





## *Class Clowns Wacky Wombat Lovebites After-school workshops*

For the third year running, Tantrum hosted the Melbourne Comedy Festival's *Class Clowns* comedy heat, bringing young comedians from Newcastle and the Hunter together to compete in the Melbourne Comedy Festival's annual event. Tantrum continued to partner with Newcastle Region Library to deliver the *Wacky Wombat* program, bringing stories to life for pre-schoolers through performance, song, dance and craft. We also delivered the creative component for the *Love Bites* program, a respectful relationships education program that focuses on the development of respectful relationships and violence prevention for 15 to 17 year olds. *Love Bites* is delivered by NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect). Tantrum delivered five workshops in 2015 for a variety of schools in the Upper Hunter.

Our extensive after school Creative Drama Workshop Program was delivered by Tantrum's teaching artists: Tamara Gazzard, James Chapman and Associate Director Lucy Shepherd. Through collaborative and inclusive theatre making practices, the teaching artists and K-Yr12 workshop participants, developed a wonderful series of comical and heart-warming stories that were presented as part of our end of year showcase 'Making It' at the Civic Playhouse in December.

## *Multi-Cultural Film Festival*

Following the success of 'The Antigone Project' in 2014, Tantrum Youth Arts partnered with Northern Settlement Services to present a family friendly program of short films made locally, nationally and internationally. Both outcomes of 'The Antigone Project'; *Antigone* and *Love is Friendship*, were showcased at the festival in June at the Newcastle Museum and Regal Movie Theatre. The Multi-Cultural Film Festival was supported by Newcastle Ydo, Samaritans, ArtsNSW, the Australian Government Department of Social Services, The Regal Movie Theatre, and Newcastle Museum.

## *Hissyfest Newcastle*

*Hissyfest* Newcastle is Tantrum's short play festival for 18 to 26 year olds, produced by emerging artist James Chapman. *Hissyfest* is an annual participatory festival aimed at skills and capacity development, and encourages a wider audience across post-school age groups for Tantrum shows. It encourages local young artists to write or devise ten-minute new works specifically for the festival, which is non-competitive. While script applications are open to all ages and locations internationally, actors and directors are locally based and are allocated to the ten selected plays.

Staged in November at Civic Playhouse, *Hissyfest 2015* was the smoothest iteration of the festival in its history and was a highly collaborative community building experience. It engaged approximately 57 participants as writers, directors, actors and crew - the largest number of participants to date. The addition of a theme ("Wet") and the engagement of an emerging designer brought more cohesion to the presentation and was enjoyed by participants and audience members. We have gone thematic again for 2016 with the theme 'Out of Place'. *Hissyfest 2015* was supported by ArtsNSW and PKF Lawler.



**TANTRUM**  
youth arts

FINANCIAL REPORT

**Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.**

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the  
Financial Year Ended 31 December 2015**

		2015	2014
		\$	\$
Grant & workshop income	2	217,330	244,462
Other income	2	69,487	57,137
Artist fees, salaries and employee benefits		(212,078)	(226,451)
Depreciation expense	3	(1,347)	(824)
Administration expenses		(18,183)	(14,927)
Occupancy expenses		(18,626)	(20,712)
Audit of the financial report	3	(2,088)	(2,583)
Other production costs		(28,579)	(25,893)
Sundry expenses		(894)	(799)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) before tax</b>		<u>5,022</u>	<u>9,410</u>
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<u><u>5,022</u></u>	<u><u>9,410</u></u>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u><u>5,022</u></u>	<u><u>9,410</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.

## Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2015

		2015	2014
		\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		99,237	153,386
Trade and other receivables	4	4,346	2,876
Other current assets	5	4,869	4,938
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>108,452</u>	<u>161,200</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Plant & equipment	6	4,160	5,506
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>4,160</u>	<u>5,506</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><u>112,612</u></u>	<u><u>166,706</u></u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	16,119	24,810
Other liabilities	8	76,666	122,814
Employee entitlements	9	12,697	16,974
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>105,482</u>	<u>164,598</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u><u>105,482</u></u>	<u><u>164,598</u></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>7,130</u></u>	<u><u>2,108</u></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	10	7,130	2,108
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u><u>7,130</u></u>	<u><u>2,108</u></u>