



PROGRAM REPORT 2023

norpa



MAKERS HUB

POWERED BY
NORPA

ABOUT...

In 2023, a year after the Northern Rivers floods destroyed NORPA's home and theatre venue, NORPA created the Makers Hub - a fit for purpose theatre-making space in one of the pavilions in Lismore Showgrounds on beautiful Bundjalung country.

The Makers Hub provided the opportunity for NORPA and partners to explore the potential for creative hubs popping up across the region, and tested proof of concepts for a future mobile theatre.

The Makers Hub is dedicated to experimentation and connection. A space for workshops, training, research & development, multi-artform collaboration and creative connection.

The Makers Hub 2023 aimed to:

- Engage and exchange with leading national and regional artists
- Seed new works for the future
- Provide 'open space' to connect with the wider creative community
- Invite audiences/community into the creative process
- Reignite and build on existing and new collaborations
- FUEL our region with exciting dance and theatre making practice



KEY IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

NORPA curated and facilitated a diverse, free and accessible 9 week program of events at the Makers Hub 2023, which included First Nations new work and workshops, and disability arts outcomes:

- 2 x NORPA R&Ds of new work + 2 x external company rehearsals
- 7 x intensive workshops with artists: Thomas ES Kelly, Jenni Large, Julian Louis, Milk Crate Theatre, Nigel Poulton, Emma Saunders and Kaz Therese
- 7 x short workshops with artists: AG Dance Company, Philip Channells, Colleen Coy, Kirilly Dawn, Rhoda Roberts AO and Paul Walker
- 1 x public performance event engaging over 30 local artists
- 1 x week long mentorship in partnership with Arts Access Australia

Resulting in:

- 509 attendances (208 individuals) engaged across 27 events
- 100% rated their overall experience good or excellent
- 93% attendance rate (compared to average of 50% attendance rate for free events)
- 22% of responders were first time engagers with NORPA



FEEDBACK

'Inspiring, Connecting, Insightful, Invigorating, Engaging, Fun!'...

'It was a real treat to connect with local artists creatively again, and have such inspirational leaders feed into my own practice.'

'The hub has a wonderful feeling as a shared creative space. It is so refreshing to come into a space like that, connecting with community and feeling so supported.'

'I have been blown away by the past months workshops I have had the privilege to attend, made more incredible that they were all, free!'

'Vital for continued community creativity expression and healing'

'It was the perfect weekend to not only fill my creative cup but made me genuinely happy and grateful for life.'