

Message from the CE



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND MUSEUMS

Number 14

The Department of Arts and Museums' Arts and Cultural Policy

In 2014-15, Arts NT is developing a new arts and cultural policy for the Northern Territory in consultation with the community and in line with the objectives of *Framing the Future* and the Development of Northern Australia. The Policy will ensure a strong foundation for the development of the arts and cultural sector for the economic, social and cultural benefit of the Northern Territory. A Review of the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program will also occur to ensure funding is equitable, transparent and effectively supports the delivery of the Policy priorities.

Darwin Festival

In 2014, the Northern Territory Government provides funding of \$1.3 million and more than \$230 000 in kind support to the Darwin Festival through the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program and the *FestivalsNT* initiative. The 2014 Darwin Festival from 7 August 2014 to 24 August 2014 reported that ticket sales exceeded the box office target set for this year.

The Darwin Festival opened with the annual free Santos Opening Night Concert with performances from Tina Arena and Tiwi Islands collective, B2M with record attendance of 5000 attending the free annual opening event. Strong attendance figures were reported across many events and Festival Park was a hive of activity with a mix of free entertainment and ticketed shows at the Lighthouse venue and Brown's Mart Art's Theatre, foods stalls and an amazing mix of lighting throughout the park as well as some creative seating ideas.

It was encouraging to hear the positive comments from staff, visitors and the community about the Darwin Festival as one of the Northern Territory's 'must see' events on the *FestivalsNT*'s calendar.

Meeting of Cultural Ministers

The Hon Matt Conlan MLA chairs this important Australasian meeting of Arts and Culture Ministers. Australian, State and Territory government Ministers will convene in Alice Springs on Friday, 10 October 2014 to meet to discuss a variety of arts and cultural issues. Regrettably the New Zealand Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage is unable to attend due to a national election being held at that time.

A tailored program has been developed so that visitors to Central Australia have a unique and very special experience.

Christmas Function

It is that time of the year again to plan for this Department's Christmas Function and I ask that staff self-nominate to be on the Committee to commence discussions to plan for this year's event. Please email Jane Kearney, jane.kearney@nt.gov.au your nomination so that meetings can be scheduled.

Fundraising ideas and suggestions on what we should arrange this year are also welcomed and I ask that you send Jane any thoughts.

Cyclone Planning

Information on cyclone preparations has been distributed to ensure that this Department makes the necessary arrangements.

Hugo Leschen
Chief Executive
Department of Arts and Museums