



Emu Runner private screening fundraiser, December 2018 raised over \$5,500

Over 300 supporters attended our private screening in Sydney and were joined by film makers Imogen Thomas and Victor Evatt, and Brewarrina Elder Fran Barker who acted as the community adviser during production. Read more about our event [here](#).

“Gone Bush” - Gala Dinner & Fundraising Art Auction 2018

We held our gala fundraiser Gone Bush at Chatswood Golf Club in September 2018, with nearly 100 supporters attending the event.

Jennifer Isaacs, AM, and Secretary of the ABF highlighted projects we supported over the past year: Emu Runner – a film set in Brewarrina in country NSW; Ngarawanajirri – an art centre for disabled Tiwi people on Bathurst Island; and DEFIANT, Beyond Empathy (BE) – a project based in Lismore that uses art and creativity to assist youth health, and wellbeing.

Video clips of Emu Runner and Ngarawanajirri were shown, then Kim McConville, Executive Director of BE provided an overview how art drives positive change in indigenous communities. Leaders of BE’s DEFIANT project in Lismore – Sarah Bolt and Kirk Page - explained that this public art project is critical for combating isolation, loneliness and the feeling of hopelessness.

Forty-six items were up for auction, including works from Pat Brassington, Paul Connor, Mick Glasheen, Tim Johnson, Ngarawanajirri Tiwi artists, Gary Shead and Tony Tuckson. Auctioneer Roger McIlroy led some exciting bidding, with several works selling above their value. We are delighted to announce that we raised more than \$33,000.

The ABF was honoured to have Blak Douglas playing the didgeridoo and – in a world first – he jammed with Pete Doherty (Mental as Anything) who played guitar. Pete also belted out a few amazing numbers. Thanks to both for supporting our foundation.



Updates on ABF supported projects

Ngarawanajirri Inc, the Keeping House, Bathurst Island in the Tiwi Islands

The aim of Ngarawanajirri is to provide a safe, clean community area for local artists to practise and to help and encourage them with their work. This provides the artists with a job and status within the community. The work the artists undertake includes painting, fabric art, and carving in the historic "Keeping Place" – a magnificent Ngarawanajirri building commonly called the Tiwi Sistine Chapel as pictured above.

You can watch a video [here](#) and see artists as they work.

How we helped Ngarawanajirri

The ABF has provided a total of \$20,000 to Ngarawanajirri over 2018-2019. This was the first time in three years they had received funding. Our help covered artist materials, fuel and running costs and nutritious food for morning tea.

Defiant, Beyond Empathy

This a program that targets Aboriginal youth between 15 to 25 in Lismore and surrounds who are experiencing hardship. It uses art and culture to disrupt the suicide contagion that has spread throughout the region and ultimately improve youth health, wellbeing and connection.

Defiant seeks to create opportunity for local Aboriginal artists and cultural workers to work with their community on healing. The footprint of Defiant is from Grafton to Tweed Heads.

Over the past two years, the ABF donated \$40,000 to Beyond Empathy to support Defiant.



Project leaders of Defiant - Sarah Bolt and Kirk Page are both performers. Getting their feelings out is part of the healing process and they are ideally placed to help guide youth.

Defiant – creating social change through art and culture

-  Using cross form art to empower young people and help them find their voice
-  Youth will be taken on excursions to Country with local cultural guides and elders strengthens connection and belonging
-  It's a strength-based approach built on healthy relationships - not telling young people what to do
-  Further projects tackle trauma experienced by young people, including youth suicide, loss, longing and belonging

Other news

We are delighted to welcome Sonja Lee to the board of directors. The ABF board comprises:

- Jennifer Isaacs AM, Chair
- Adrian Newstead OAM
- Simon Chan
- John Coffey, Treasurer
- Shelley Indyk
- Adam Flynn

About the Foundation

The ABF's objectives are to promote, provide and carry out activities, facilities and projects for the benefit, welfare and well-being of Aboriginal communities throughout Australia and the members of those communities. We focus on supporting health and education projects with a connection to Aboriginal art and/or artists, which are undertaken to assist the youth, the aged and those who suffer from infirmity, disability, poverty or other disadvantageous social or economic circumstances.

Feedback

Please contact us [here](mailto:info@aboriginal.org.au) info@aboriginal.org.au



 www.aboriginal.org.au



Emu Runner, Brewarrina

The film *Emu Runner* focuses on Gem, a spirited nine year old girl whose mother dies unexpectedly. How Gem and her family deal with grief and loss are explored. So too are underlying social tensions, illustrated through interactions between lead characters, the police and social workers. You can view a trailer of the film [here](#).

With a highly topical storyline and beautiful cinematography, the film was shown and acclaimed at the Toronto Film Festival, and at the South Australian Film Festival.

This film is driven by the community and many people in Brewarrina were closely involved as actors, advisory writers, on set helpers and were participants in on all aspects of the story being portrayed which touches on many serious social effects and causes of family breakdown.

How the ABF helped

The ABF donated \$20,000 to *Emu Runner*. Funds were provided as an urgent response grant when editing could not proceed due to funds shortfall.

Media coverage of projects we support

The ABC visited *Ngarawanajirri* in July 2018 as part of its "Back Roads" series and produced a segment *Tiwi Islands: Couple fights to keep a centre for artists with a disability running without funding*. Watch the segment [here](#).

Nearly a year ago, the ABC covered the production of *Emu Runner* and highlighted the positive impact it brought to Brewarrina in the article *Emu Runner film brings stars and opportunities to remote NSW community of Brewarrina*. Read the article [here](#).

How you can donate

We are a Deductible Gift Recipient organisation and all monetary gifts over \$2 are tax deductible. We can accept donations in the form of money, as proceeds in full or in part from the sale of art works, as gifts in kind, and as bequests and in other ways. To donate funds or for more details on types of gifts that are tax deductible, please contact [John Coffey](mailto:jscoffey@bigpond.com) via jscoffey@bigpond.com

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