



FLIPSIDE  
CIRCUS

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# Acknowledgement

Flipside Circus acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands upon which we work, train, and perform. We acknowledge the continued occupation of the Yagarabul and Turealbul peoples, and their interaction with the land for over 60,000 years. We also pay our respects to the Traditional Elders and all elders past and present, for their contribution to what we enjoy today.



# Contents

|                                        |   |
|----------------------------------------|---|
| 2025 Snapshot .....                    | 4 |
| Artistic Director /CEO's message ..... | 6 |
| Chair's message .....                  | 7 |

## 2025

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Brisbane Circus Centre .....        | 8  |
| Our Impact .....                    | 12 |
| Training .....                      | 13 |
| Community & social circus .....     | 15 |
| Giving Day to the Arts .....        | 22 |
| Artistic .....                      | 24 |
| Industry support .....              | 30 |
| Administration and governance ..... | 33 |
| Financials .....                    | 34 |
| Partners & supporters .....         | 37 |
| Our people .....                    | 38 |

Front and this page: *Maybe It's Only Us*, Creative Futures Photography.  
Back page: Out of the Box Festival, Pete Wallis.

Images included in this report were supplied by –

Pete Wallis  
Creative Futures Photography  
Kate Lund  
Matt McNally  
Joel Devereux  
Jade Ellis Photography





FLIPSIDE  
CIRCUS

# SNAPSHOT 2025



**37,768** PEOPLE ENGAGED  
ACROSS **2,480** ACTIVITIES



**27,785** PARTICIPANTS

**9,983** AUDIENCE MEMBERS

**1,757** PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED  
IN SCHOOLS ACROSS  
**99** PROGRAMS

**1,741** PARTICIPANTS IN  
**128** SOCIAL CIRCUS/  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

**983** ARTISTS SUPPORTED  
OVER **729** SESSIONS



**1** GOLD MATILDA AWARD



## REGIONAL AND REMOTE TOURING PROGRAMS

**57** DAYS ON THE ROAD

**1,097** WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

**1,325** AUDIENCE MEMBERS

**76** PROGRAMS  
IN **14** COMMUNITIES  
INCLUDING

Bowen, Collinsville, Doomadgee,  
Georgetown, Hughenden, Ilfracombe,  
Isisford, Monto, Mt Isa, Normanton,  
Proserpine, Rockhampton, Townsville  
and Yeppoon.





## Artistic Director/CEO's message

Flipside bounced back in 2025. After the Brisbane Circus Centre fire in 2024 we spent 2025 rebuilding programs, connections with communities, and operational capacity.

Early in the year we were honoured to receive the Gold Matilda recognising the importance of Flipside's role fostering the development of young and early career artists, engaging communities, and creating performance.

Our training programs engaged 27,745 people across Queensland. Our in-schools programs performed particularly well expanding on our record engagements the previous year. Circus school enrolments also recovered well but remained below pre-fire levels.

We staged five productions across 2025 including *Maybe It's Only Us* our collaboration with The Good Room. *Maybe It's Only Us* was the most ambitious performance work we have undertaken; with 25 young and early career performers utilising the entire Brisbane Circus Centre as a canvas to tell their stories. The show spanned eight different performance spaces from intimate corridors to epic whole-building verticals.

*Maybe It's Only Us* brought together the different strands of this organisation. Young and early career artists worked side-by-side with established artists and creatives as peers to create a work of scale that empowered young people and made their voices heard. *Maybe It's Only Us* epitomises our ambition to push circus and youth arts practice; embed storytelling in circus; and experiment through collaboration. By using the entire Brisbane Circus Centre we also chased the ghosts from the corners, reclaiming the venue after the fire.

Another highlight was the continued success of Waterways which engaged 1,403 First Nations participants across regular training programs, intensives, and community engagement workshops.

Our touring programs continued to build lasting relationships in regional and remote Queensland communities; our artists covered 7,909 kilometres in 2025 working with partner communities and organisations.

We were also able to begin to rebuild our organisational capacity – staffing levels began to return to pre-fire levels and we continued to replace equipment and rigging systems lost in 2024. Financially we were able to manage recovery and improve our financial position.

None of this would have been possible without our amazing staff, trainers, artists, volunteers, community, and board members. I want to acknowledge our small but mighty core team who went well above and beyond in 2024 and 2025. Gabi, Rebecca, and Phoebe in particular, who since 2020 have guided this organisation through one pandemic, one construction process, 19+ temporary venues, one fire, and one rebuild.

**Robert Kronk**



## Chair's message

Like the forest after a bushfire, 2025 was a time of new growth for Flipside. The great fire of 2024 is past us and we have settled back into our home at the Brisbane Circus Centre with new equipment, a new head of circus, and a host of new work and opportunities.

Looking back on my report from last year, I am struck by just how incredibly well we weathered what could have been an existential problem. I have no doubt that Robert's leadership and our amazing staff are the reason for that and the work they have done in building and renewing is wonderful. They are also the reason so many of you come to Flipside to train and learn and have fun and,

most importantly perhaps, to show off! After the ups and downs of the previous year, 2025 was the first real opportunity for so many of our students and wider community to enjoy the Brisbane Circus Centre.

One of the most exciting things to happen in 2025 is that we have been joined by Jian Nie as our head of circus. As you will see later on in the report, we are so lucky to have someone with Jian's expertise and vision join our Flipside family.

Thanks to Robert and our incredible team, over 27,000 people were able to participate in Flipside programs in 2025 – not only at the Brisbane Circus Centre but also around Queensland in places we have been visiting for many years now, like Hughenden and Doomadgee, which feature later on in this report. Our Waterways program continues to grow as well. Of course, it would not be possible for us to share circus across Queensland the way we do without the support of our extraordinary students, families, and a wider circus family who all contribute to our success. As always, thank you all.

The board and our senior staff have been tireless in ensuring the smooth operation of the company and seem to be able to take any challenge in their stride.

As you know, we would not have been able to achieve all that we do if were not for some of our friends, such as the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, North Shore, and BMD, as well as supporters across all levels of government. Thank you for helping us to reach so many young people.

Last year I wrote about our strategic plan for the coming years, which is focussed on consolidating the work we have done, building upon what we have, and growing the organisation to take advantage of the opportunities that come from being at North Shore. The fruits of that planning can be seen in work like *Maybe Its Only Us* and *The Cubby*, two acclaimed shows produced by Flipside this year.

The Brisbane Circus Centre is already starting to feel a little small. Perhaps next year, I will be able to report about what we are going to do to use the space with more people, to make more work, and to show off more! We will continue to create and tour ambitious new artistic work that tells Australian stories, continue to expand our training program, and grow the Brisbane Circus Centre to be a national and international home for circus.

**Hamish Clift**

# BRISBANE CIRCUS CENTRE



# FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

## SEATING BANK

98 seats that slide away to a tiny footprint make adapting between performance and training a breeze. Generously donated by Griffith University.



## RIGGING

As part of our commitment to safety we undertake an extensive annual rigging audit. This involves inspecting every piece of aerial apparatus and servicing all of our rigging systems. We also engage a third-party company to test ground anchors. In 2025 we also added apparatus to our equipment room including new tissues, trapezes, corde lisse and aerial net.





Mass aerials

## MAYBE IT'S ONLY US

### A technical achievement

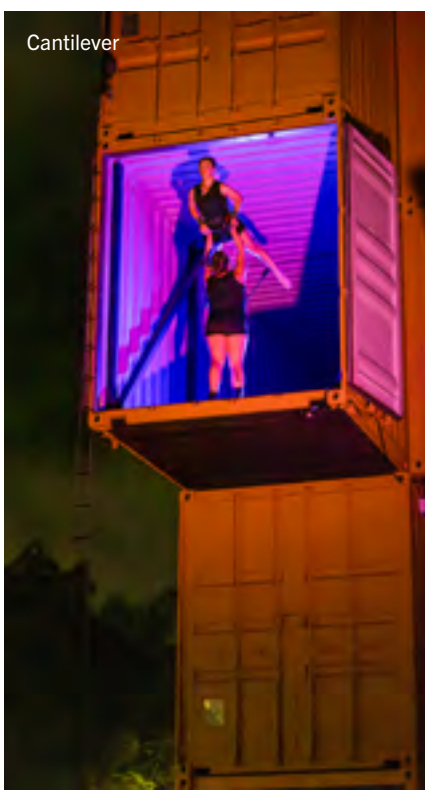
From a rigging and technical perspective, *Maybe It's Only Us* was one of the most ambitious projects Flipside has ever undertaken. Bespoke rigging installations spanned the building's exterior walls, shipping containers, a cantilevered container overhanging the loading bay, and the main studio space. These installations facilitated performance of counterweighted wall-walking with live projections, high-wire walkers six metres in the air, twelve concurrent ensemble aerialists, and a nine-metre free fall dive from the building's third storey. Led by Flipside's Head Rigger and *Maybe It's Only Us* Rigging Designer/Creator Alex Weckes-Huck, the project represented a significant leap forward in Flipside's technical capability and will directly inform how we approach ambitious work for years to come.



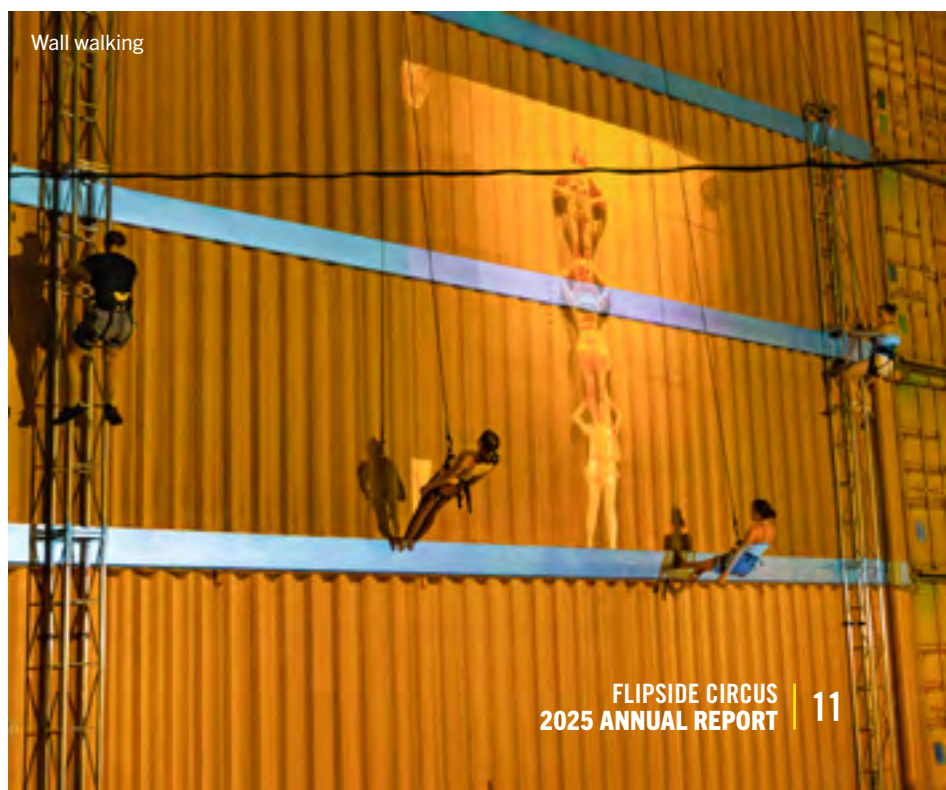
Free fall dive



Highwire



Cantilever



Wall walking

# OUR IMPACT IN 2025

## FLIPSIDE'S FOUR KEY PROGRAMS

### TRAINING

**27,785** participants across Queensland

**97%** rated our training programs as good or excellent

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CIRCUS

**128** social circus programs delivered  
for **1,741** participants

**57** days on the road visiting **14** communities  
delivering **76** engagements

### ARTISTIC

**9,983** audience members across **149** performances

**5** productions including Flipside's most ambitious show  
to date, *Maybe It's Only Us*

**4** new works

### INDUSTRY SUPPORT

**983** artists supported across **729** training sessions,  
creative developments, supported rehearsals, and  
professional development.

**7** young people completed our Trainee Trainer program



# TRAINING

Flipside's training programs deliver circus training across Queensland through our circus school at the Brisbane Circus Centre; in-school workshops; school holiday programs; private lessons; and community engagement.

In 2025, our training programs engaged 27,785 participants across 2,480 activities.

## Circus School

**12,268 participants.**

Term classes at the Brisbane Circus Centre continued to be the heart of Flipside's training program, with students of all ages and abilities progressing through weekly classes across all four terms. School holiday programs brought a new wave of young people through the doors during every break.

## In-schools engagement

**99 workshops presented in schools for 1,757 students.**

Flipside's in-schools programs took circus into classrooms and halls across Brisbane and beyond, with school workshops, incursions, and regular weekly Circus Clubs.





## Out of the Box Festival

A major highlight of 2025 was Flipside's partnership with the Out of the Box Festival at QPAC – one of Australia's premier festivals for children aged eight and under. Flipside delivered 18 workshops engaging 3,090 participants and performed 25 pop-up shows.

## Welcome, Jian Nie

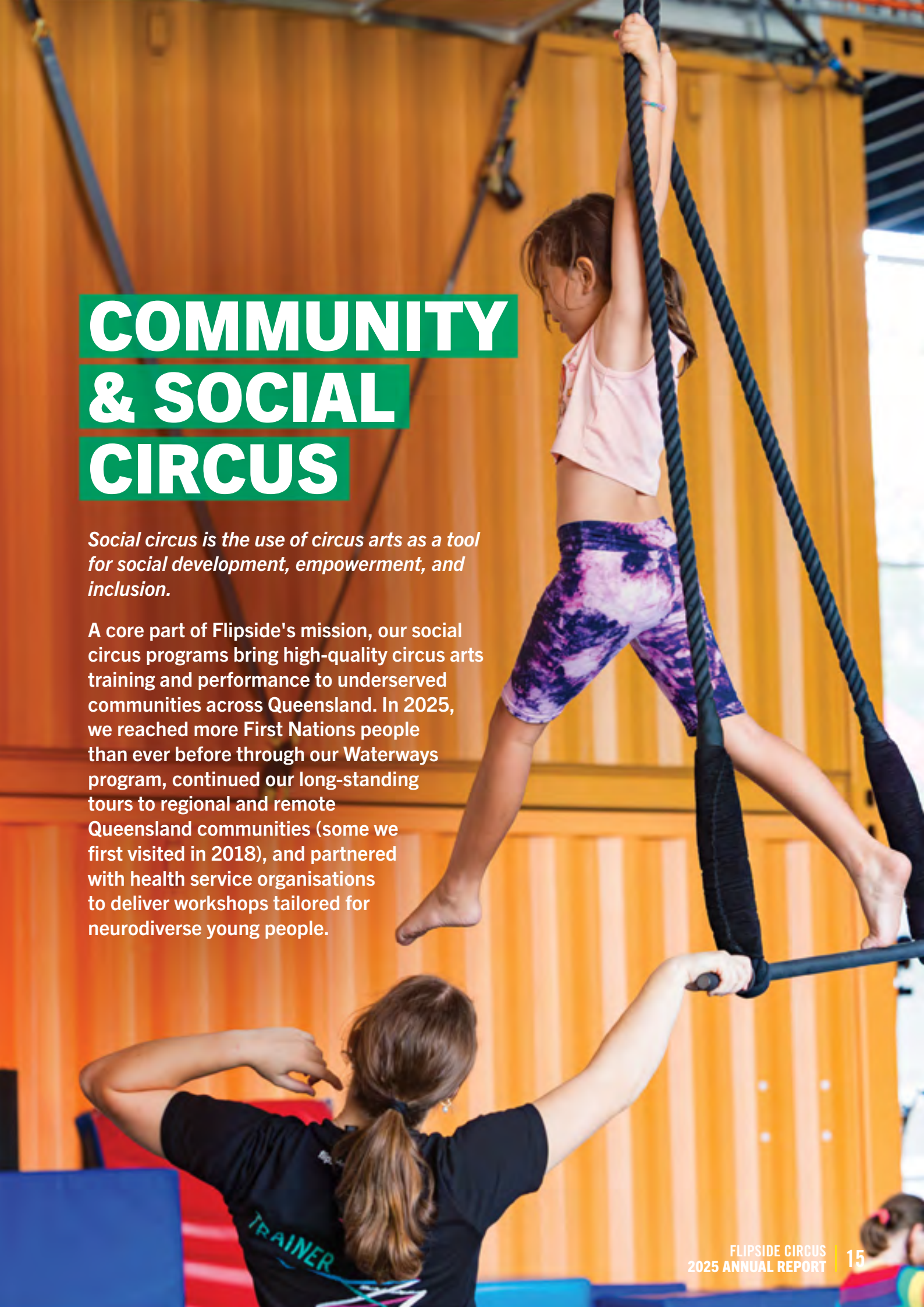
2025 also saw the appointment of Jian Nie as Flipside's Head of Circus. Jian brings over 20 years of international experience as a world-class acrobat and dedicated circus teacher – including gold and silver awards at prestigious international festivals, a performance at the closing ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and most recently a teaching role at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) in Melbourne. His approach centres on safety, progression, and creativity, and his passion for working with young people aligns perfectly with everything Flipside stands for. Jian's expertise and vision will strengthen and elevate what we offer to every student who walks through our doors.



## Circus Weekends

Circus Weekends returned in September, drawing 400 audience members over two days at the Brisbane Circus Centre. Students from across the circus school, from Circus Prep right through to Advanced Aerials, took to the stage to share their skills with friends, families, and each other. Circus Weekends is one of the highlights of the Flipside calendar. A celebration of community, confidence, and the progress that comes from showing up week after week and doing hard, beautiful things. It's the event that reminds us why we do what we do.





# COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CIRCUS

*Social circus is the use of circus arts as a tool for social development, empowerment, and inclusion.*

A core part of Flipside's mission, our social circus programs bring high-quality circus arts training and performance to underserved communities across Queensland. In 2025, we reached more First Nations people than ever before through our Waterways program, continued our long-standing tours to regional and remote Queensland communities (some we first visited in 2018), and partnered with health service organisations to deliver workshops tailored for neurodiverse young people.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CIRCUS

## Residency and *The Cubby* Tours

**1,097** WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

**1,325** AUDIENCE MEMBERS

**76** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

**14** COMMUNITIES VISITED

**11** PERFORMANCES

**6** ARTISTS/TRAINERS

**7,909** KILOMETERS AND **57** DAYS ON THE ROAD VISITING...

### LEG 1 — FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Georgetown, Doomadgee, Mt Isa, Hughenden, Isisford, Ilfracombe, and Normanton.

### LEG 2 — NORTH AND CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Townsville, Proserpine, Collinsville, Bowen, Yeppoon, Rockhampton, and Monto.

QUEENSLAND





First visit to Hughenden, 2018

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CIRCUS

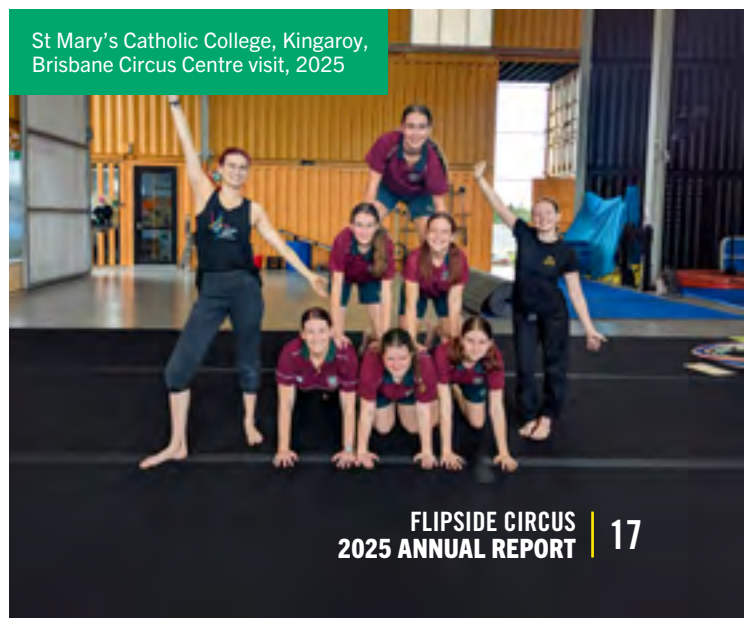
## Building relationships that last

A key part of Flipside's residency model is to build relationships with communities by returning as often as possible. Rather than parachuting in for a single visit, Flipside invests in long-term connections that deepen over time, earning trust, learning what communities need, and creating programs that genuinely reflect the people they serve. For example, we've visited Hughenden four times since 2018!

For many of the regional and remote communities Flipside visits, these returning relationships mean that circus is no longer a novelty but a familiar and anticipated part of community life. It is in these places, and with these people, that circus does its most important work. In 2025, we came full circle when several regional communities made a special visit to the Brisbane Circus Centre.



Latest visit to Hughenden, 2025



St Mary's Catholic College, Kingaroy,  
Brisbane Circus Centre visit, 2025



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CIRCUS

## Flipside in Doomadgee

*A 3-year partnership empowering students through circus.*

Doomadgee State School in remote northwestern Queensland, serving predominantly Gangalidda, Garrawa, and Waanyi First Nations students, has partnered with Flipside Circus since 2021 to deliver circus residencies that build engagement, confidence, and joy through student-led play.

### Program growth

The program has grown significantly since its pilot, expanding from a 2-day trial with 77 participants in 2021 to a 3-day residency in 2025 with 176 student participants and 190 audience members at the closing performance, *The Cubby*. All students in Years 1-10 take part, with many returning year after year.

***“Students who were previously disengaged or struggling academically became more motivated and confident as they participated in hands-on activities.”***

— Principal, Doomadgee State School





## Impact

The results have been profound. Teachers reported that students who typically struggled in traditional classroom settings became active, motivated participants. As the school principal observed, hands-on circus activities helped previously disengaged students grow in confidence and academic motivation. For children in this remote community, circus became an unexpected bridge to teamwork and a sense of achievement.

*“At the start a lot of the kids were quite nervous to give it a go and join in but by the end, some of them were teaching each other tricks or coming up with their own creative variations.”*

– Luke Whitefield, Trainer/Performer

## Why it works

Flipside’s success comes down to flexibility and student agency. Trainers replaced rigid lesson plans with drop-in sessions, adapting activities in real time, pivoting from trapeze to silks when needed, and letting students choose their own music and props. In a low-pressure environment where young people feel ownership over their learning, even the most reluctant participants end up spinning, climbing, and cheering each other on.



## COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CIRCUS

# WATERWAYS

The Waterways program, led in partnership with Lara Croydon, continued to grow in 2025 as a space where First Nations young people can connect, create, and thrive through circus. Reaching 1,403 participants across the year, Waterways delivered two 4-day circus camps, two Sunday Funday events across three age groups, a 3-day workshop at Hymba Yumba Independent School, and a full-day circus activation at Musgrave Park Family Funday that brought the joy of circus to the heart of one of Brisbane's most loved community gatherings. Ten young First Nations participants took the next step in their circus journey by enrolling in the Circus School with support from Flipside. A testament to the lasting relationships and sense of belonging that Waterways works so hard to build.

*"We started off super shy and I think they still are but it brought out their brave! Both girls showed some big courage. It was actually their first public performance ever. Like ever and we weren't sure if they would pull out in the last minute but they proved to themselves they could. They had all the performers nerves, but leant into the fear and did it anyway (Cause they freaking rock!)."*

*It was a particularly culturally safe space and I thought it was pretty special for them to spend time with other First Nations kids at the Waterways program. We even connected with a couple of other parents at those workshops so it was particularly special.*

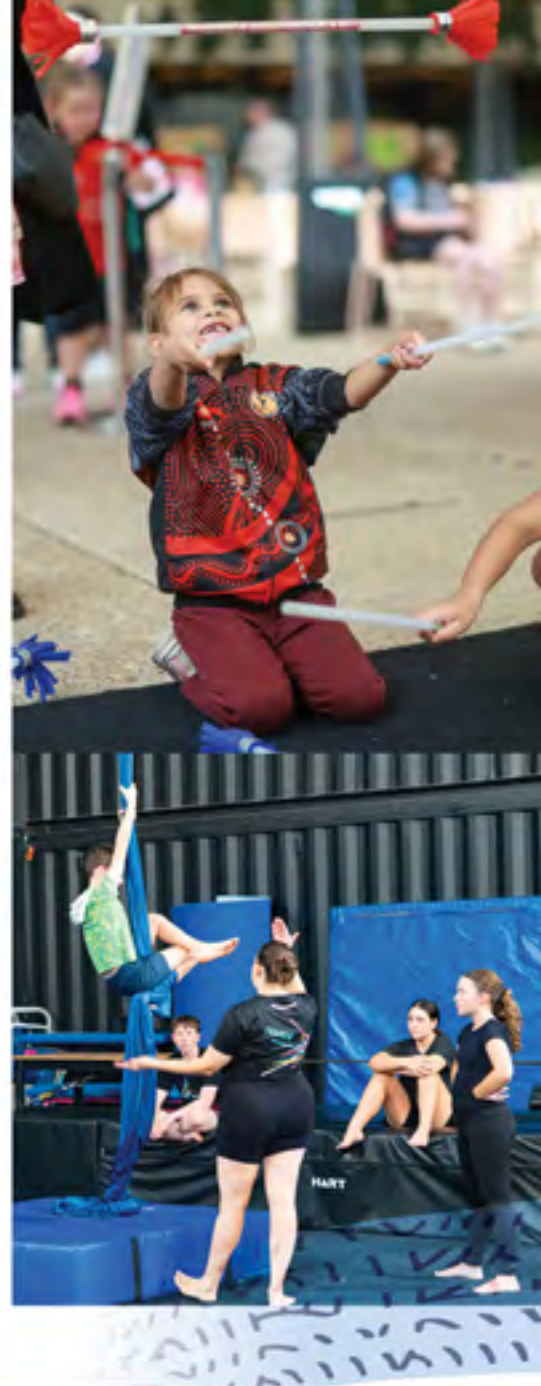
*So five stars for a) prioritising needs of the child, b) community connection, and vibe, and c) Cultural safety (which quite frankly is genuine inclusiveness principles for everyone!)"*

– Rina, Waterways parent

*"I just wanted to say thank you for such a great job with the Waterways program.*

*I'd also like to say thank you to Lara and Sam for being so great – Keily's body has changed a lot recently and she is suddenly very self conscious, however, Lara and Sam have always made her feel comfortable and respected her decisions without pressure (eg didn't push her to be a "top/flyer" and cheered about how great being a base is). It really makes an impact on the kids that not only are the tops being celebrated but the bases are as well. She loves coming each week and is always devastated when she is sick or can't come."*

– Keily, Waterways parent



IMAGES (top to bottom): Hymba Yumba Independent School at Out of the Box Festival, 4-day Waterways Camp Showcase, Musgrave Park Family Fun Day. Opposite: Sunday Fun Day.



A woman in a houndstooth top and purple leggings is balancing on a red wooden structure, possibly a ladder or a piece of circus equipment. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. Below her, two other people are visible, one in a black leotard and another in a polka-dot top, both reaching up to support the structure. The background is dark with vertical lines and some colorful confetti or sparks. The text "HOMEGROWN" is in yellow and "FUTURE BOUND" is in blue, both in a bold, sans-serif font.

# HOMEGROWN FUTURE BOUND

# GIVING DAY TO THE ARTS

In 2025, Flipside participated in AusArt Day – the first ever national giving day to the arts. Supported by Creative Australia, AusArt Day invites all Australians to support the artists and arts organisation by donating.

Flipside's campaign, Homegrown, Future Bound, celebrates our grassroots story – from workshops under a tree in 1994 to today's Brisbane Circus Centre. Through powerful short films and matched-giving, we spotlight young voices, regional communities, and share impact stories. Showing every donation as a building block for the future of circus.

Together we smashed our \$20,000 goal and raised a total of \$26,030. We'd like to thank everyone who made a donation, big or small. Every donation helps Flipside deliver it's mission of empowering communities through circus.



Australian Government



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



**\$26,030**

**\$20,000**

If you'd like to donate and help Flipside reach more communities, please visit:  
**[flipsidecircus.org.au/support-us](https://flipsidecircus.org.au/support-us)**

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Flipside is Homegrown, Future Bound – watch our Giving Day campaign video

A photograph of a person standing on a high horizontal beam, possibly a tightrope or a stage edge, at night. The person is seen from behind, wearing a dark top and shorts. Below them, a large crowd of people is visible, with many hands raised towards the person on the beam. The scene is illuminated by vibrant red and blue stage lights, creating a dramatic and energetic atmosphere. The background shows a dark sky and some structural elements of the venue.

# ARTISTIC

2025 saw Flipside's most ambitious artistic program yet. The development and premiere of *Maybe It's Only Us* stretched our artists and our organisation in the best possible way, pushing the boundaries of what Flipside makes and how we make it. From early creative developments at the start of the year through to a full performance season in November and December, the production demanded the very best of everyone involved and delivered something genuinely new to Brisbane audiences.

Alongside this flagship work, Flipside performed at QPAC's Out of the Box Festival, toured regional Queensland with *The Cubby*, celebrated the 2025 graduands in *Clandestine: The Cabaret*, and our emerging Step Ups artists performed *READY* to sold out crowds. It was a year that raised the bar, and one that sets an exciting foundation for the artistic work still to come.



***“Flipside Circus is one of Queensland’s largest youth arts organisations and one of our great success stories.”***

– MATILDA AWARDS

Receiving the Gold Matilda was a highlight of 2025. The highest honor at Queensland’s annual Matilda Awards, the Gold Matilda recognises an exceptional body of work and a major, sustained contribution to the Queensland performance arts industry. It came at a low point in Flipside’s history as we were rebuilding after the fire at the Brisbane Circus Centre in early 2024. This recognition reaffirms Flipside’s core mission and dedication to nurturing young artists.



## Performance Program

Flipside’s Performance Program supports young artists to translate training outcomes into stage-ready capability, with a focus on movement quality, teamwork, and stagecraft. Strengthened through collaboration with professional artists and real performance practice, the program builds the mature performance habits and professional discipline that set Flipside’s young performers apart.





## HIGHLIGHTS

# MAYBE IT'S ONLY US

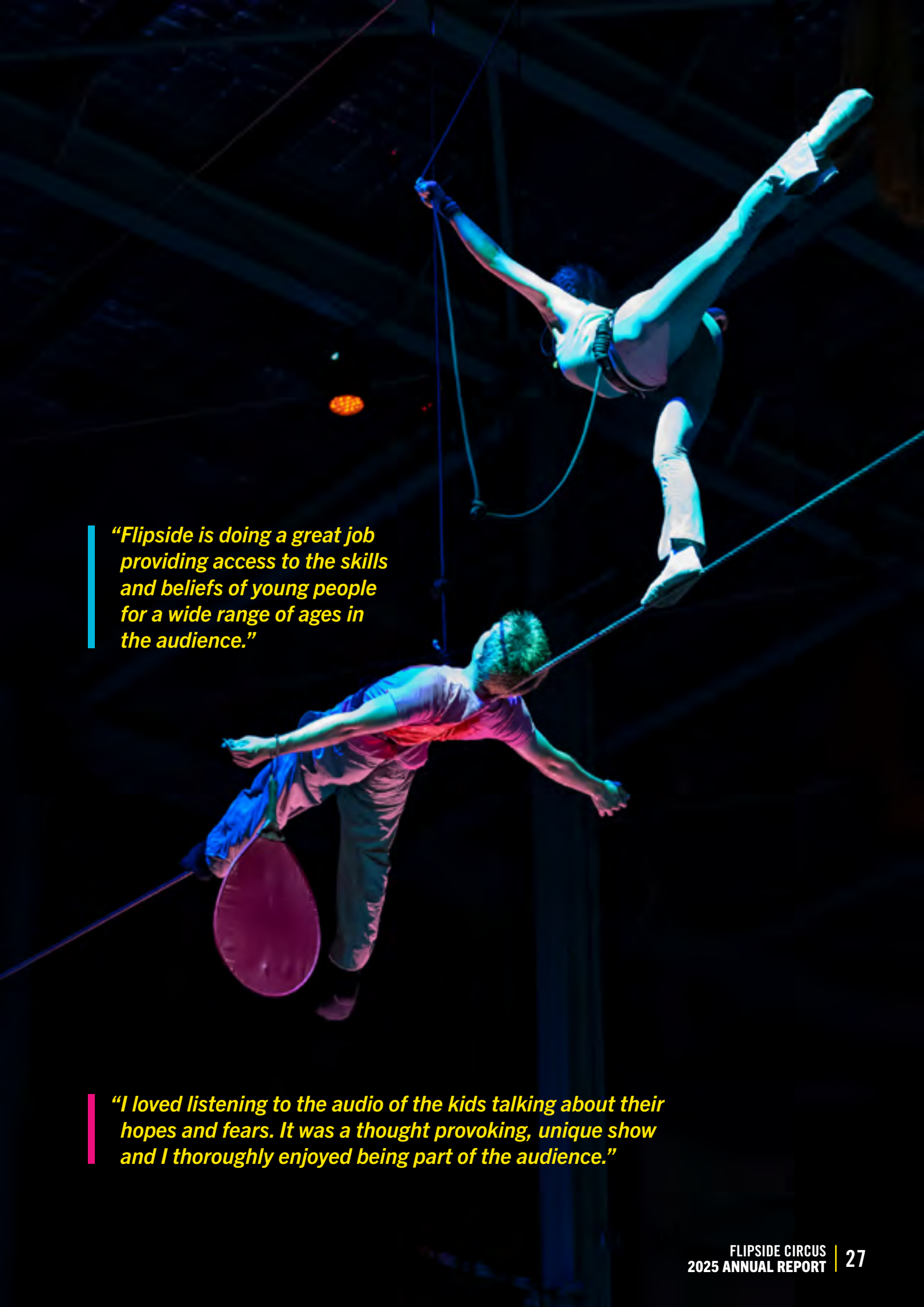
A collaboration between Flipside Circus and The Good Room.  
27 November – 7 December 2025 | Brisbane Circus Centre

The flagship production of 2025, *Maybe It's Only Us* throws audiences into the aftermath of a failed music festival, where the party is over and survival feels uncertain. Transforming the Brisbane Circus Centre into a sprawling circus apparatus, the work combines daring physicality, promenade staging, and raw honesty to capture a generation navigating chaos and searching for connection. Part survival story, part fever dream: *Lord of the Flies* meets Fyre Festival.

Directed and created by Nathan Sibthorpe and Bridget Boyle, written by Nathan Sibthorpe and Amy Ingram, with dramaturgy by Robert Kronk, the production featured 16 Flipside performers across a full creative team of designers, composers, and technicians. Seven shows across the season drew 760 audience members, and the response was extraordinary: 100% of surveyed audience members rated their enjoyment 4 or 5 out of 5, with 86% giving a perfect score.



*Maybe It's Only Us* was supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, Northshore Hamilton, and BMD.



*"Flipside is doing a great job providing access to the skills and beliefs of young people for a wide range of ages in the audience."*

*"I loved listening to the audio of the kids talking about their hopes and fears. It was a thought provoking, unique show and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the audience."*



## HIGHLIGHTS

# THE CUBBY

Developed by Flipside Circus with regional and remote communities.  
May and June 2025 | Regional Queensland

*The Cubby* hit the road in 2025 for two regional touring runs, bringing its celebration of children's ingenuity and imagination to communities across Queensland. Across six touring performances, the show reached over 800 audience members in regional and remote communities, many of whom rarely have access to arts experiences. Joyful, skilful, and deeply connected to the communities it serves, *The Cubby* continues to be one of the most meaningful things Flipside makes.

**We asked our young audiences what their favourite part of *The Cubby* was:**

**"FLIPS"**

**"When she went in the wheelbarrow"**

**"Aerial loop"**



**"I like it because when you did the swimming it was cool and why I liked it because it's cool and amazing"**

**"I love how they never gave up"**

**"Back flips"**

**"The flexibleness"**

**"ALL OF IT!"**

## HIGHLIGHTS

# CLANDESTINE

Created by the graduating members of Flipside's Performance Troupe.  
8 August – 10 August 2025 | Brisbane Circus Centre

*"This was brilliant. A great opportunity to showcase the amazing skills of the Flipsiders. My two flipside kids really really loved the show and it's given them something to aspire to."*

*"Grad shows always make me cry!"*

Inspired by the dim lights of speakeasies and the energetic world of cabaret, *Clandestine* was a chance for these young performers to share their craft before stepping into the next chapter of their lives. For some, it's their final Flipside performance; for all, it's a celebration of the skills, friendships, and fearless creativity they've built together.



## HIGHLIGHTS

# READY

A new show from Flipside's Step Ups Troupe.  
Featuring Flipside aerials students.  
Directed by Mia Hughes.  
24 May – 1 June 2025 | Brisbane Circus Centre

*"Wonderful to see young people share their circus skills and support one another. Every student had a moment to shine!"*

*READY* explores how play shapes us — teaching us to take risks, to trust, to push beyond limits, and to lift each other up. Through strength, balance, and trust — play is a way to grow, to connect, and to redefine what we can do.

This sold-out season saw our community come together to celebrate young people in circus.



A full-page photograph of an aerial circus performance. Two acrobats are suspended in the air by long pink ribbons. One is in a horizontal pose, the other is in a more vertical, arched pose. Below them, a third person is on the ground, also holding a ribbon. In the background, there are large green and white patterned globes. The setting is a large, modern building with a high ceiling and large windows.

# INDUSTRY

Flipside's industry programs support artists and drive sector development across Queensland's circus and performing arts community. Through open training, rehearsal space, and career pathways support, the Brisbane Circus Centre functions as a creative home for the broader circus sector.

In 2025, Flipside supported **983** artists through **729** industry support activities.

# Supported companies

In 2025, companies and artists were supported through in-kind support and rehearsal space to facilitate the development of new works and the remounting of old favourites.

Flipside's 2024 Artists-in-Residence (AIR), Chimera Arts and Collective Circus, returned to the Brisbane Circus Centre in 2025 for further rehearsal before performance seasons at Undercover Artist Festival and Adelaide Fringe. Our continued support of these companies beyond their in-residence tenure is a deliberate part of how we support the industry by investing in the long-term growth and sustainability of the companies and artists.

## Chimera Arts

### *6 Degrees, Undercover Artist Festival*

Chimera Arts is a disability-led arts company that celebrates the resilience of professional circus artists who identify as deaf and/or disabled. *6 Degrees*, first developed as part of Flipside's 2024 Artist-in-Residence program, returned to the Brisbane Circus Centre for supported rehearsals in 2025 before being performed at the Undercover Artist Festival.



## Collective Circus

### *Stir The Pot, Adelaide Fringe*

Collective Circus is a group of emerging Queensland-based artists dedicated to providing a platform for young artists transitioning from youth circus to the professional stage. *Stir The Pot*, first developed as part of Flipside's 2024 Artist-in-Residence program, returned to the Brisbane Circus Centre for supported rehearsals in 2025 before touring to Adelaide Fringe.



## ALSO SUPPORTED:

**Bridie Hooper**

For Whom The Bell Tolls  
Junction Arts Festival

**Rockstar Cabaret**

Brisbane Circus Centre

**Anabella Gregory**

FUSE, Backbone Arts Festival

**Jasmine Straga**

Mentoring young artists at the  
Brisbane Circus Centre



# Open training

Flipside delivered 521 open training sessions at the Brisbane Circus Centre, providing independent artists with access to world-class circus facilities on a drop-in basis. Open training is one of the most direct ways Flipside supports the broader circus sector, offering affordable, industry-standard access to equipment and space that few other venues in Australia can match.

# Trainee trainers

2025 marked a significant milestone for Flipside's career pathways program with the biggest ever intake of trainee trainers, welcoming seven young participants into the program. Formally embedded into Flipside's training programs this year, the Trainee Trainer program provides a structured gateway for young artists to transition into professional work, gaining hands-on experience alongside Flipside's senior training team while developing the teaching skills, safety knowledge, and confidence that a career in circus education demands.



A full-page background image showing two acrobats performing a stunt on thick ropes. One acrobat is positioned higher, with their legs hooked over the ropes and arms extended. The second acrobat is below them, holding onto the first's legs and arms, also suspended by the ropes. They are both wearing black athletic wear. The background is a bright, overcast sky with some greenery and a yellow structure visible at the bottom.

# ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

Flipside Circus is committed to good management. We adhere to best practice governance as set out in Creative Australia's Essential Governance Practices for arts organisations.

The directors and staff constantly review policies and procedures.

2025 reviews included:

- Code of Ethics and Conduct;
- Child Safe Policies, including Blue Card register;
- Budgets;
- Finance Policy;
- Flipside Circus policies and procedures; and
- Company and directors' details.

# FINANCIALS

Our key challenge in 2025 was managing fire recovery – balancing rebuilding earned income and rebuilding organisational capacity. While the venue and most of our key equipment was replaced by the first quarter of 2025, secondary equipment and rigging systems continued to be replaced throughout the year (along with some continuing remediation work). Staffing capacity remained below pre-fire levels but grew slowly as our financial position improved.

The organisation posted a surplus of \$106,797 which was partially driven by insurance recoveries of \$123,400. Overall our financial position improved significantly with net cash inflows of \$251,586 (\$223,301 in 2024). Our reserves ratio improved from 0.74 (2024) to 1.2 (2025) but remains below target.

Earned income has recovered well, but some key income streams are still below pre-fire levels. The organisation will continue to balance capacity constraints and earned income in 2026.



**Flipside Circus Ltd.****Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income  
For the year ended 31 December 2025**

|                                                | 2025        | 2024        |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                 | 1,580,209   | 1,311,356   |
| Other income                                   | 123,400     | 138,319     |
| Interest revenue                               | 5,537       | 2,247       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                |             |             |
| Advertising and promotions                     | (14,230)    | (10,153)    |
| Bad and doubtful debt expense                  | (3,150)     | (10,546)    |
| Depreciation expense                           | (169,196)   | (196,749)   |
| Employee benefits expense                      | (951,234)   | (819,605)   |
| Contractors                                    | (15,442)    | -           |
| External trainers                              | (1,050)     | (1,447)     |
| In-kind expenses                               | (9,038)     | (30,091)    |
| Loss on disposal of assets                     | (19,233)    | -           |
| Insurance                                      | (61,376)    | (50,622)    |
| Other expenses                                 | (128,711)   | (95,991)    |
| Performance and class expenses                 | (131,584)   | (171,919)   |
| Rental and related expenses                    | (55,141)    | (37,520)    |
| Write-off of assets                            | -           | (78,641)    |
| Finance costs                                  | (42,964)    | (47,291)    |
| Total expenses                                 | (1,602,349) | (1,550,575) |
| <b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>          | 106,797     | (98,653)    |
| Other comprehensive income for the year        | -           | -           |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> | 106,797     | (98,653)    |

# Flipside Circus Ltd.

## Statement of financial position As at 31 December 2025

|                                      | 2025             | 2024             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                        |                  |                  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | 286,104          | 203,180          |
| Trade and other receivables          | 20,718           | 16,398           |
| Contract assets                      | 8,036            | -                |
| Inventories                          | 5,464            | 6,466            |
| Other current assets                 | 46,046           | 28,251           |
| <b>Total current assets</b>          | <b>366,368</b>   | <b>254,295</b>   |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>            |                  |                  |
| Other financial assets               | 25,000           | 25,000           |
| Property, plant and equipment        | 2,117,343        | 2,172,859        |
| Right-of-use assets                  | 200,098          | 234,400          |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>      | <b>2,342,441</b> | <b>2,432,259</b> |
| <b>Total assets</b>                  | <b>2,708,809</b> | <b>2,686,554</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                   |                  |                  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>           |                  |                  |
| Trade and other payables             | 90,587           | 117,944          |
| Contract liabilities                 | 29,205           | 61,142           |
| Borrowings                           | 28,053           | 35,272           |
| Lease liabilities                    | 35,570           | 39,789           |
| Employee benefits                    | 112,068          | 89,900           |
| Other current liabilities            | 10,000           | -                |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>     | <b>305,483</b>   | <b>344,047</b>   |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>       |                  |                  |
| Borrowings                           | 89,997           | 118,049          |
| Lease liabilities                    | 243,276          | 278,838          |
| Employee benefits                    | 5,639            | 1,125            |
| Provisions                           | 241,689          | 228,567          |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b> | <b>580,601</b>   | <b>626,579</b>   |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>             | <b>886,084</b>   | <b>970,626</b>   |
| <b>Net assets</b>                    | <b>1,822,725</b> | <b>1,715,928</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                        |                  |                  |
| Retained surpluses                   | 1,822,725        | 1,715,928        |
| <b>Total equity</b>                  | <b>1,822,725</b> | <b>1,715,928</b> |



# 2025 PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

## GOVERNMENT AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS



Flipside Circus is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland; the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body; the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation; and receives funding from Creative Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund.

## PROJECT PARTNERS



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

## COLLABORATOR



## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT



# OUR PEOPLE

Flipside is run by a small and dedicated group who predominantly work on a part-time and casual basis. Our 2025 programs were delivered by 67 individuals but only 9.73 full-time equivalent staff.

## Board

Hamish Clift – Chair  
Catherine Nufer – Treasurer  
Sarah Thomasson – Secretary  
Cameron Hoffmann – Director  
Lisa Summer-Hayes – Director  
Robert Kronk – Director



## Administration

Robert Kronk – CEO / Artistic Director  
Rebecca Campbell – Customer Service Manager & Operations Coordinator  
Gabriela Gallardo – Producer / Regional and Remote Program Manager  
Phoebe Waltham – Head Trainer & Program Coordinator (part-year)  
Jian Nie – Head of Training & Circus (part-year)  
Matt McNally – Marketing Coordinator  
Davy Sampford – Senior Trainer  
Alex Weckes-Huck – Head Rigger  
Mia Hughes – Assistant Program & Step Ups Coordinator  
Genevieve Trace – Business Manager (part-year)  
Deb Sidney – Bookkeeper



## Trainers & Artists

|                          |                  |                        |                      |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Jack Bailie              | Anisah Collins   | Merlene Hutt           | Jasmine Prosper      |
| Meg Barber               | Ellen Cox        | Teagan Irvine          | Luke Quadrio         |
| Ela Bartilomo            | Jordan Eriksen   | Zoe Joiner             | David Sampford       |
| Aurora Bennett-Godde     | Tiffany Field    | Manellaya Kaydos-Nitis | Riley Shearer        |
| Stephanie Benson         | Isla Fletcher    | Alana Langley          | Dylan Singh          |
| Teale Blewitt            | Indra Garvey     | Isabelle Lawton        | Arabella Stone       |
| Sophia Blyth             | Samantha Giles   | Harley Mann            | Jasmine Straga       |
| Bridget Boyle            | Lisa Goldsworthy | Riley McDonald         | Nicola Taube         |
| Jamee Campbell           | Anabella Gregory | Kayleigh Nordin        | Michael Webb         |
| Erin-Lee Casserly        | Ellen Grow       | Kathryn O'Keeffe       | Luke Whitefield      |
| Tania Cervantes Chamorro | Lucy Hunterland  | Paul O'Keeffe          | Billie Wilson-Coffey |
| Aline Chapet-Batlle      |                  |                        |                      |

## Creatives

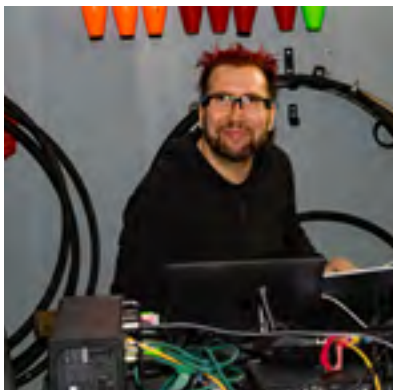
Bridget Boyle  
Lara Croydon  
Christine Felmingham  
Aaron Jeffery  
Adelaide Lukin  
Andrew Oxford  
Nathan Sibthorpe  
Alexander Weckes-Huck

## Venue, Production & Other

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Jedda Bell     | Luke Harriman      |
| Kelsey Booth   | Brynn Holmes-Clark |
| Callum Cornish | Frerich Komp       |
| James Davies   | Joshua Phillips    |
| Ewan Foster    |                    |

## Volunteers

87 of Flipside's amazing community members.



A full-page photograph of two young women performing a human pyramid on a rooftop. The woman at the base is standing on one leg, balancing the other woman on her shoulders. Both are wearing black t-shirts with the 'FLIPSIDE CIRCUS' logo and black shorts. The woman on top is also wearing a black knee brace and a wristband. They are both looking down with concentration. In the background, there are modern city buildings under a clear sky. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members' heads are visible, showing they are watching from a distance. Other people are sitting on the grass in the background, and a speaker is visible on the left.

If you'd like to donate and help Flipside reach more communities, please visit:  
**[flipsidecircus.org.au/support-us](https://flipsidecircus.org.au/support-us)**

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.