



REGIONAL ARTS NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Awards open for regional arts volunteers

The valuable work that volunteers contribute to the artistic and cultural lives of their communities across regional New South Wales is being recognised with the 2nd Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards now open for nominations.

Chief Executive Officer of Regional Arts NSW Ms Elizabeth Rogers says the Awards “aim to recognise, reward and encourage regionally-based arts and cultural volunteers who have made a substantial contribution to the arts in regional communities right across Australia”.

“The first Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards recognised contributions as diverse as Brian Castle’s from Longford Victoria for his passionate commitment to the Gippsland Art Gallery as well as New South Wales own Heather Blackley for her long and outstanding contribution to the arts in Condobolin and the Lachlan arts community” she continued.

Each state and territory will present awards in two nominated categories:

- *Sustained Contribution Award* - To recognise and reward a regionally-based arts volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the arts in regional Australia over a period of five years or more.
- *Outstanding Contribution Award* - To recognise and reward a regionally based arts volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to an arts project, event, organisation or community in regional Australia. (Young people are particularly encouraged to nominate in this category).

Each award recipient will receive a package valued at over \$1,800 including a commissioned artwork by a regional artist, a framed certificate, a complimentary registration to Regional Arts Australia’s national conference Junction 2010 to be held in Launceston TAS, as well as travel and accommodation to attend the conference and receive their award. Junction 2010 (26-29 August 2010) will be the biggest gathering of regional arts practitioners in Australia this year.

President of Regional Arts Australia Ms Julie Boyd encourages regional communities across New South Wales to think about nominating someone from their region in each of the categories.

“We accept nominations from both organisations and individuals, and we will happily accept self-nominations” she said.

“From experience we know that people tend not to recognise their own contributions, and yet volunteers around Australia are the lifeblood of regional arts activities and events”.

“To put it simply, without volunteers many regional arts events simply wouldn’t happen. The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards are really a way for the Board of Regional Arts Australia and the wider community to recognise the valuable contribution that so many people make to creative endeavours in their communities”.

Media enquiries: Contact Regional Arts NSW on 02 9270 2500 or to speak with Julie Boyd please direct enquiries to Kylie Kerrigan, Manager Corporate Affairs, Country Arts SA, 08 8444 0400, m: 0401 999 633, e: kylie.kerrigan@countryarts.org.au



Nominations close Friday 26 March 2010 with nomination forms (including full terms and conditions) available from www.regionalarts.com.au

The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards Program is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, through its Community Partnerships section.

Ends

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