



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Arts Fund delivers 22 major new projects in NSW \$393,040.00 in funding for new projects across regional NSW

Arts Minister, Simon Crean, announced a total of \$393,040 will go towards 22 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2013 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

The list of successful projects encompasses a broad spectrum of art forms including film, music, literature, visual arts, textiles, dance and theatre. Communities across the state – from Deniliquin in the south west, Cobar in the far west, to Boggabilla in the north and Moruya in the south – will benefit from this funding.

'With 60 applications received and over \$1 million requested, this round of the Regional Arts Fund was very competitive and the panel commented that decisions on funding were very difficult due to the high standard of most applications,' said Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW. 'This round again demonstrated the range and depth of arts and cultural projects and initiatives in regional NSW and the importance of the Regional Arts Fund to these communities. There were 22 successful applicants, four of which had applied to the fund for the first time. I was particularly pleased to see 8 new projects targeting Indigenous communities.'

Examples of the projects funded include:

- **South West Arts' Paste Ups** – local professional photographers from the South-West will work with aspiring local amateur photographers to create photographic works exploring the Human Face of the Murray Darling Basin. The resulting imagery will be reproduced and exhibited as large scale "paste ups" in public spaces.
- **Outback Arts' Weaving Across the Outback Masterclasses** – Skilled Indigenous weavers from Boolarng Nangamai will deliver master classes in 7 towns across the far western NSW region, extending skills development and providing tools for career opportunities and cultural development through ongoing support for participants.
- **Lieder Theatre Company's Coming Home Soon** – a collaboration between Lieder Theatre, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, playwright Alana Valentine and the Goulburn Correctional Centre. Indigenous actors will rehearse and present the inaugural production of "Coming Home Soon", a new play that tells the stories of children who have parents in Goulburn Gaol.
- **Life without Barriers Coffs Harbour's Russell Way Mid North Coast Residency**, an innovative artistic program engaging intellectually disabled clients and mentoring teenage clients in the Nambucca, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour LGAs. The project will also link with the Nambucca Valley Phoenix disabilities and arts organisation and provide professional development to local artists.

A full list of funded projects is attached.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program that supports sustainable, cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. The funding is targeted at activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and the community through the development of partnerships and cultural networks, by providing artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and by supporting arts and community development projects that provide local communities with the opportunity to participate in, and access cultural activities. The Fund has an emphasis on building capacity in disadvantaged, very remote and Indigenous communities.

Regional Arts NSW is the peak body for regional arts activity in NSW, and manages the Fund in New South Wales on behalf of the Australian Government. Assistance is available across all art forms in a range of categories.

For further information contact Ben Sibson: Tel 02 9270 2502 Email fundingmanager@regionalartsnsw.com.au



Regional Arts Fund NSW - List of Projects Funded 2013

Partnerships

Arts Mid North Coast **\$17,000.00**

Creative Coast - Arts Month and Creative Industry Forum/Workshop

Region: Mid North Coast

The project will be rolled out across the Arts Mid North Coast region, in partnership with North Coast Destination Network, to enable the programming and promotion of multiple arts events across the region including a regional "Arts Month" along with a creative industries development program, marketed within the region and to external audiences.

Eastern Riverina Arts (ERA)

Year 1 (2013): \$14,850.00

Fresh/Dance/Film

Year 2 (2014): \$19,110.00

Region: Eastern Riverina

A series of dance and video making workshops for young people in the Eastern Riverina. In partnership with the Riverina Community College and six local councils, ERA will facilitate a 2 year program featuring dance crew Stricklii Fresh to teach dance skills and choreography culminating in the screening of 5 new dance films across the region.

Orange Regional Conservatorium of Music

\$17,487.00

A Week in Harmony

Region: Central West

A 6 day celebration of cultural diversity in the Central West. A series of 5 workshops led by professional artists will be held with participants from several culturally and linguistically diverse groups within the community, culminating in a final day concert for Orange's Harmony Day 2012, which will also include other local multicultural groups.

Lieder Theatre Company Inc.

\$18,500.00

Coming Home Soon

Region: Southern Tablelands

The Lieder Theatre Company will engage a production team to work with Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, playwright Alana Valentine, Goulburn Correctional Centre and indigenous actors to rehearse and present the inaugural production of "Coming Home Soon" as part of Goulburn's 150th celebrations. The play tells the stories of children who have parents in Goulburn Gaol. It aims to develop the relationship between the Lieder and GRAG, strengthen Indigenous communities and provide employment for regional artists and actors.

South East Arts (SEA)

\$11,000.00

Past Present

Region: South East

Past Present will premiere two new theatre pieces at the Eurobadalla River of Art Festival in May. The plays will be presented in partnership with Merrigong Theatre, which will provide professional development workshops for actors and directors in the region. The two short plays, developed with the participation of local residents, will focus on the social history of the regions.

Residencies & Mentorships

Arts North West (ANW)

\$15,389.00

Art Relay - Pass it On!

Region: North West

A dedicated year-long mentoring program for Aboriginal artists in the New England North West region of NSW. This regionally coordinated program provides both mentors (professional Aboriginal arts practitioners) and mentorees (emerging to middle-career Aboriginal artists) with the structured support and process-driven initiatives required to develop their relationship throughout the program.

Beyond Empathy

\$30,000.00

Silver City Rainbow Ridge

Region: North West

The Aboriginal Elders of Armidale come together with their young people, re-imagining the stories from the 1960's when they lived in squalid conditions in tin shacks at Silver City Rainbow Ridge, with relief only found in Saturday night dances. This re-imagining will be a performance incorporating dance, theatre, projection, film and song from the sixties to the present day.

Arts OutWest **\$17,000.00**
Prepare to Exchange
Region: Central West

This project will develop the region's creative practitioners - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal - to prepare them for an international platform. Working towards professional interaction in a planned cultural exchange between Derbyshire, UK and the Central West, the project provides skills in facilitation and collaboration to develop cross platform art projects with UK practitioners. Funding is directed towards the preparation and skills development prior to the exchange including a 2 day skills development workshop, in order to ensure the region is able to contribute at a high level.

Life without Barriers (Coffs Harbour Regional Support Centre) **\$19,000.00**
Russell Way Mid North Coast Residency
Region: Mid North Coast

Life without Barriers will contract professional artist Russell Way to work with two local artists to provide an innovative program for intellectually disabled clients and mentor teenage clients in the Nambucca, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour LGAs. The project will also link with the Nambucca Valley Phoenix disabilities and arts organisation and provide professional development to local artists.

HotHouse Theatre **\$5,000.00**
'Pyjama Girl' and the Studio Ensemble
Region: Albury/Wodonga

Three 1 week residencies will be undertaken in 2013 with writer Emma Gibson in order for her to work with the HotHouse Studio Ensemble (12 young aspiring performers aged 18-26 years) on her new play 'The Pyjama Girl' - based on an iconic real-life Albury murder mystery from 1934. Gibson will work with local young people to inspire and educate a generation of emerging local theatre makers.

New Initiatives

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation **\$23,826.00**
Saltwater Freshwater Dance & Leadership Camps
Region: Mid North Coast

Saltwater Freshwater will run a three-day dance and cultural camp to teach a new dance work to up to 50 Aboriginal students from the Kempsey and Coffs Harbour shires. The dance camp will aim to reinvigorate and showcase NSW's unique and vibrant local Aboriginal culture.

Outback Arts **\$24,113.00**
Weaving Across the Outback Masterclasses
Region: Far West

Skilled Indigenous weavers from Boolarng Nangamai will deliver masterclasses in 7 towns across the far western NSW region, extending skills development in basic weaving techniques, dyeing fibres, and creating woven objects. Boolarng Nangamai will also provide tools for career opportunities and cultural development through ongoing support for participants.

Northern Rivers Screenworks Inc. **\$26,475.00**
New Indigenous Screen Writer's Workshop Northern NSW
Region: Northern Rivers

Utilising the skills of regional and city based professional Indigenous writers and associated producers, this project will develop skills for emerging Indigenous drama writers in story telling for all screen media. Through a series of workshops tailored to the needs of participants, it will support and build career pathways in the screen industry.

Euraba Paper Aboriginal Corporation **\$20,000.00**
Land, community, Spirit
Region: North West

Elders from the Boggabilla and Toomelah communities will have stories and/or living memories recorded and transcribed by young people from the community, along with the creation of illustrative artwork. The resulting material will be collated, printed on paper hand-made by the participants and Euraba artists, and hand bound to create an artistic artifact of the memories and culture of the local Indigenous people.

South West Arts **\$25,500.00**
Paste Ups
Region: South West

Paste Ups is a professional development project involving local professional photographers working with aspiring local amateur photographers to create a photographic exploration of the Human Face of the Murray Darling Basin. The project will culminate in a Paste Ups/Street Art exhibition in the 9 local government areas of the South West Arts region, utilising large-scale reproductions of the photographic works in public spaces.

Outback Theatre for Young People Inc. (OTYP)	\$20,000.00
<i>Illuminate - Stage 2</i>	
<i>Region: South West</i>	
"Illuminate - Stage 2" is the production phase of a two-year celebratory theatre and digital media project designed to bring together over 200 young people from six schools in the Wakool Shire. Two week intensive workshops will be held in each of the schools followed by a collaboration with Powerhouse Youth Theatre for the 'Secret Places' joint project. Illuminate will produce two works, a large scale outdoor theatre event and a documentary.	
Garlambirla Guuyu-girrwaa Elders Group	\$20,000.00
<i>Buluunggal Bush Tucker Trail Sculpture & Signage Design</i>	
<i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	
This project involves the revitalisation of the Buluunggal bush tucker trail through the creation of a sculpture and signage design. The Aboriginal land trail, which runs alongside Coffs Creek and connects to the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, aims to highlight cultural values of the estuarine environment. Indigenous senior high school students' art skills will be advanced through the employment of an artist facilitator from RAF funding, and the project's infrastructure aspects have been funded through the NSW Environmental Trust and the Coffs Harbour City Council.	
Slippry Sirkus Inc	\$17,000.00
<i>Signs of the Times</i>	
<i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	
Using digital storytelling, music/sound, visual arts and iconography, the project will produce an exhibition through a series of arts workshops to explore the theme of identity, provide skills development and strengthen social capital. The professional artistic team will form the core of a mentoring and professional development element for local/young emerging artists from the community and region, who have engaged in previous projects as participants/mentors and who will be invited to work alongside the project artists.	
The Cad Factory	\$10,000.00
<i>The Cad Factory Community Projects</i>	
<i>Region: Western Riverina</i>	
In partnership with the Grong Grong Progress Society and the Grong Grong Motor Inn, local artists and Cad Factory artists will live and work in the Grong Grong Motel over a period of 7 days, developing and presenting two evenings of promenade style performance/installation events. This week long intensive laboratory will allow the opportunity for deep exchange, exploration and presentation of ideas which will also involve workshops with the local primary school.	
Cowra Musical & Dramatic Society	\$10,000.00
<i>Cowra Canowindra Arts Project 2013-2014</i>	
<i>Region: Central West</i>	
A series of workshops, arts labs, and a site-specific performance/installation, involving youth, artists, arts workers and cultural organisations from Cowra, Canowindra, Bathurst and professional visiting artists, which aims to revitalize the community through the art making process. The project will facilitate inter-generational communication through the use of local oral histories as the starting point for the creative process.	
Young Tidy Towns Committee	\$18,000.00
<i>Under the Bridge - Young Mural Project</i>	
<i>Region: All Regions</i>	
Creation of a public mural to complement a newly constructed walking trail in an area that has been subject to graffiti and anti-social behaviour for generations. Through partnerships with an array of local youth-based organisations, the project will engage young people in the design and creation of the artwork, and will be coordinated by community artist Joy Cornish, working with Wiradjuri artist Enid Clarke.	
Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival	\$12,900.00
<i>Celebration of Womens' Writing and Stories</i>	
<i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	
A two-part project celebrating the excellence and diversity of women's writing and stories. Firstly, dedicated panels and events will be included as part of the festival with the participation of leading women's writers. Secondly, reaching out to the community to record and film stories by, about and of women and editing and broadcasting these stories over radio 2BBB, ABC Open and in new media, and the creation of a film to be screened.	