Regional Arts NSW | Launch of CAMRA Toolkit

Good afternoon it’s wonderful to be here for this exciting delivery of the ‘All Culture is Local’ Toolkit, and the wider CAMRA project.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respects to the Elders both past and present of the Eora Nation and extend that respect to other community members present.

Today is a welcome demonstration of partnership discussion and practice occurring across our communities within New South Wales and a useful and practical outcome of the investment in the CAMRA project made by RANSW and the other partners over the past 5 years.

This dialogue is captured within the toolkit by 17 case studies and 112 pages of recipes for cultural mapping and planning, which brings to life the ideas, skills, innovation and knowledge held by local councils and regional arts bodies to strengthen capacity building and well-being outcomes for varying sized communities.

Catching the attention of Regional Arts NSW is how these case studies contribute to a greater understanding of the interrelationship between cultural industries and regional development. As the peak body for 14 regional arts boards across the state, and a leading member of Regional Arts Australia, we are deeply interested in the ways in which networks and partnerships can help to maximise capacities and resources, and how the Regional Arts Development Officers can be conduits for knowledge transfer as well as the means by which bridges can be built between local stakeholders, regional tourism, economic development agencies and community well-being initiatives.

Immersed in a local level government environment myself, I see every day the importance of Council’s being proactive in collaborative partnerships across State, Federal and arts bodies. The tool kit’s stories provide real examples in supporting this approach, stretching across Councils and regions, the kit articulates practical community engagement methods, cultural planning and activity methods, place based approaches and accessible arts policies. Value adding to the States integral role with these partnerships the States participation in this project has now seen an invaluable resource available to all.

In closing I would like to acknowledge our long lasting partnerships, and the support and contributions made to not only this project but also the on-going work across our communities. Thank you to Arts NSW Mary Darwell and staff for hosting this event this evening and your ongoing support for RANSW and the regional network, to the CAMRA research team and other partners including the Australia Council for their role in this project. I’d also like to acknowledge colleague Board members Screen NSW staff, Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Rogers, and the on-ground contributing excellence from the Regional Arts Development officers, their staff and all the participating NSW Councils in the program.

I now declare the ‘All Culture is Local’ Toolkit launched for distribution far and wide!