



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Arts Fund delivers 20 major new projects in NSW \$381,290 in funding for new projects across regional NSW

Minister for the Arts, Senator George Brandis today announced a total of \$381,290.85 for 20 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2014 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

The list of successful projects encompasses a broad spectrum of art forms including music, visual arts, circus skills, dance and theatre. Communities across the state – from Balranald in the south-west, Broken Hill in the far west, to Lismore in the north and Albury in the south – will benefit from this funding.

'With 55 applications received and nearly \$1 million requested, this round of the Regional Arts Fund was particularly competitive and the panel commented that decisions on funding were very difficult due to the extremely high standard of many 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 20 successful applicants, five of which had applied to the fund for the first time. I was particularly pleased to see 4 new projects specifically targeting Aboriginal communities.'

Examples of the projects funded include:

- **RealArtWorks Inc *Nothing is Useless*** – A creative exploration around the theme of redundancy using obsolete technology to create an interactive exhibition using sound, image, text and light by professional and emerging artists with and without disability. Developed over a year it will culminate in exhibition and performance outcomes at the Lismore Regional Gallery.
- **The WIRED Lab Ltd -*BGGW - Acoustic Ecology & Wiradjuri Language Project - Year 1*** – an innovative sound art project with skills development opportunities and creative outcomes benefitting Wiradjuri language rejuvenation, agriculture and environmental preservation. This project incorporates partnerships with Wiradjuri, agricultural and natural resource management communities.
- **Arts North West *Art Relay - Pass it On! Performing Arts Mentoring - STAGED*** – A dedicated twelve-month mentoring program for Aboriginal performing artists in the New England North West region of NSW, providing mentors (professional Aboriginal performing artists) and mentorees (emerging Aboriginal performing artists) with structured support and professional development opportunities.
- **Arts OutWest - *Collective Joy*** - Creative development and performance of a new youth dance/theatre work 'Collective Joy' in Cowra and Bathurst. Young regional artists will engage in an exploration of physical performance training & creative development process, with site specific performances in November 2014.

A full list of funded projects is attached.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government programme 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 Regional Arts Fund has an emphasis on youth, disadvantaged, very remote and Indigenous communities.

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



Regional Arts Fund NSW - List of Projects Funded 2014

New Initiatives

<p>Arts OutWest Collective Joy <i>Region: Central West</i></p> <p>Creative development and performance of a new youth dance/theatre work 'Collective Joy' in Cowra and Bathurst, directed by local artists Alison Buckley, Alison Plevy and Adam Deusien (Lingua Franca). Young regional artists will engage in an exploration of physical performance training & creative development process, with site specific performances in November 2014.</p>	<p>\$28,879.00</p>
<p>Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation Gathering Generations: Youth Cultural Camps <i>Region: Mid North Coast</i></p> <p>Building on the successful northern region 2013 Dance and Culture Camp, Aboriginal Gathang language group artists (Birpai, Biripi and Worimi), from the southern region of Mid North Coast NSW will be mentored to share their skills and knowledge at a 3-day Dance & Culture Camp in Forster NSW, with 30 local Aboriginal youths aged 15-18 from the Hastings, Manning, Great Lakes and Hunter regions.</p>	<p>\$26,600.00</p>
<p>Outback Theatre for Young People Inc. (OTYP) Sideshow - Balranald Circus Project <i>Region: South West</i></p> <p>OTYP's Sideshow - Balranald Circus Project is stage two of a Circus project in the isolated town of Balranald in South West NSW. In this second stage, OTYP will create a new theatrical work based on archetypal Sideshow Characters for the community. The Sideshow Project will draw on the existing circus culture of Balranald and instil a sustainable circus practice within the community.</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>
<p>The WIRED Lab Ltd BGGW - Acoustic Ecology & Wiradjuri Language Project - Year 1 of 3 <i>Region: Eastern Riverina</i></p> <p>The Box Gum Grassy Woodlands (BGGW) - Acoustic Ecology and Wiradjuri Language project is an innovative sound art project with skills development opportunities and creative outcomes benefitting Wiradjuri language rejuvenation, agriculture and environmental preservation. This project incorporates partnerships with Wiradjuri, agricultural and natural resource management communities.</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>
<p>Beyond Empathy The Maven Project <i>Region: North West</i></p> <p>The first year of a three-year project that creates an Aboriginal community arts and cultural development hub in Armidale, with a focus on the performing arts. Aboriginal creativity, autonomy and ownership sits at the centre of the Maven Project.</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>
<p>RealArtWorks Inc Nothing is Useless <i>Region: Northern Rivers</i></p> <p>A creative exploration around the theme of redundancy using obsolete technology to create an interactive exhibition using sound, image, text and light by professional and emerging artists with and without disability. It will explore ideas of what is "useful". Developed over a year it will culminate in exhibition and performance outcomes at the Lismore Regional Gallery.</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>
<p>fLiNG Physical Theatre Flying High in the South East <i>Region: South East</i></p> <p>Flying High is a new initiative supporting the professional development and cultural growth of dancers, choreographers and moving arts practitioners living and working in the Bega Valley, through a program of creative development workshops, artist residencies and performance developments with fLiNG Physical Theatre</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>

Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Limited	\$19,000.00
<i>Singleton Tales</i>	
<i>Region: Newcastle</i>	
Singleton Tales is a participatory verbatim theatre and digital storytelling project with young people in Singleton. The project features digital skills development and online content outcomes through a partnership with ABC Open, and culminates in a live theatrical performance for community members at the Singleton Youth Venue.	
Bago Magic Performance Group	\$17,962.00
<i>Magical masks of silence, fun, drama and dance.</i>	
<i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	
Through the use of Commedia dell' Arte techniques, Bago Magic will rehearse and present a major performing arts production to be staged at various venues through the region, including the Glasshouse Theatre. The aim of the creative development process will be to enhance creativity, improve physical theatre and life skills and spark imagination through genuine engagement of both performers with a disability and the wider community.	
Kulchajam	\$16,260.00
<IN.SCRIBE>- Byron Youth Art Initiative 2014	
<i>Region: Northern Rivers</i>	
The <IN.SCRIBE> artistic team will work with youth across the Byron Shire in a mentoring capacity to develop a series of public/street art projects that address the ongoing need for opportunities & skills-development for young & emerging artists in the creative industries within the region.	
Museum of the Riverina (Wagga Wagga City Council)	\$12,200.00
<i>spokenworlds</i>	
<i>Region: Eastern Riverina</i>	
This screen-based artwork on multiple platforms features historic letters and diaries from museums in Hay, Tumbarumba, Tumut and Wagga Wagga. Using descendants' voices, Riverina landscapes, images and sound, an audiovisual artist will breathe life into unheard words. As descendants from each town speak aloud fragments of text, so mother, child, Wiradjuri witness, soldier and poet arise!	
Bellingen Jazz Festival	\$11,000.85
<i>Celebrating Diversity in the Bellingen Jazz Festival Parade</i>	
<i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	
Celebrating the Bellingen Jazz Festival 25th Anniversary Jubilee Year, diverse cultural groups from across the Mid-North Coast region will be engaged to participate in a celebratory carnival-style parade. In the lead-up to the parade, there will be workshops for young women, local schools, and the general community, provided by artists from the local African community, belly dance groups, Cuban and South American performers, and professional jazz musicians.	
Partnerships	
Two Thumbs Up Projects	\$25,000.00
<i>Walking in Two Worlds</i>	
<i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	
Through the theme of Walking in Two Worlds, this community-driven, multi-arts project will: bring community members together to explore and embrace our growing cultural diversity; develop the arts, cultural & leadership capacity of cultural communities; and ultimately create an opportunity for a whole-of-community conversation & artistic expression of Coffs Harbours rapidly evolving identity.	
Albury City Council	\$22,930.00
<i>Two Ways</i>	
<i>Region: Albury/Wodonga</i>	
Two Ways will partner 8 professional artists with 8 participants with intellectual disabilities who will work together over 5 months to research and develop art work, creating a final collaborative art work or series of works. The resulting exhibition will be at the Albury public library to be opened on International Day of People with Disability.	
Eastern Riverina Arts	Year 2 (2014): \$19,110.00
<i>Fresh/Dance/Film - Year 2 of 2</i>	
<i>Region: Eastern Riverina</i>	
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.	
Heaps Decent Ltd	\$13,450.00

True West Sessions

Region: Greater Sydney

A partnership between Heaps Decent and students from Broken Hill High School, Menindee Central School and St Therese Community School in Wilcannia to tell local stories through song writing, electronic music production and digital visual media.

Bathurst Theatre Company**Central West Short Play Festival**

Region: Central West

A partnership with Local Stages – Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, this project will deliver playwriting & directing workshops for communities in the region throughout 2014 with Alex Broun & Mari Lourey (playwrights) and Kate Gaul & Adam Deuisen (directors), concluding with public performances of the work both in Bathurst and touring throughout the region.

\$10,000.00

Residencies/Mentorships

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (Bathurst Regional Council)**Black in residence**

Region: Central West

The Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC) will host a 4 week residency of Rising Damp Youth Performing Arts and Illuminarts 'If there was a colour darker than black I'd wear it'. These companies will work with the local community and local artists during May 2014 to present the work as part of the BMEC 2014 Season. The presentation will form the culmination of the Smashed Arts Program.

\$24,660.00

Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA)**Bundjalung Nghari : The Gathering - Year 1 of 2**

Region: Northern Rivers

Employment of a mentored Trainee Indigenous Associate Producer over 2 years to work on the NORPA project "Bundjalung Nghari : The Gathering". The work will engage with audiences and the Bundjalung community through an open forum, workshops and performance. Through the process, a major new dance work will be created by leading Indigenous artists and premiere at NORPA in Lismore in 2015.

Year 1 (2014): \$18,550.00

Year 2 (2015): \$18,550.00

Arts North West (ANW)**Art Relay - Pass it On! Performing Arts Mentoring - STAGED**

Region: North West

A dedicated twelve-month mentoring program for Aboriginal performing artists in the New England North West region of NSW. This program follows the success of the 2013 Art Relay - Pass it On! visual art mentoring. It provides mentors (professional Aboriginal performing artists) and mentorees (emerging Aboriginal performing artists) with structured support and professional development opportunities.

\$15,689.00

Link here for the national summary of Regional Arts Fund community grants projects:

[http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Mediareleases/Pages/2013/Fourth%20quarter/19November2013\\$13millionfornewartprojectsinregionalAustralia.aspx](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Mediareleases/Pages/2013/Fourth%20quarter/19November2013$13millionfornewartprojectsinregionalAustralia.aspx)