



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Arts Fund delivers 23 major new projects in NSW \$388,267 in funding for new projects across regional NSW

Minister for the Arts, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, has announced a total of \$388,267 will go towards 23 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2015 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 54 applications received and over \$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 23 successful applicants, five of which had applied to the fund for the first time. I was particularly pleased to see four new projects specifically targeting Aboriginal communities.'

Examples of the projects funded include:

- **South East Arts Waterways Museum** - South East Arts will partner with Erth Visual & Physical Inc. to work with local artists and community members to develop and deliver a creative installation as part of the Eurobodalla River of Arts Festival 2015 in Moruya. The Waterways Museum will be a stunning visual experience, bringing to life the region's landscape and history through interactive installations, animation and imagined artefacts created by the community.
- **Byron Shire Council -BGGW - Njadhū Mala Buhbiyn Waybar - I Will Blow The Fire** – A series of cultural intensive workshops working with an established group of children and young people from the Brunswick Valley and beyond, "I will blow the fire" is about revitalising cultural practice. The workshops will be led by cultural and Aboriginal artistic leaders from our local community and include dance, song, music, visual arts, weaving and other cultural artefact making.
- **Outback Arts Art Relay - Outback Ceramics - Artist in Residence** – Supporting local ceramicists and artists in the local community and the surrounding far west NSW region, artist and educator Anna Kainerder will develop her body of work while mentoring artists and delivering ceramic and creative industries development workshops.
- **The Cad Factory - On Common Ground** - a community driven, site specific exploration of innovative contemporary textile practices; traditional textile crafts of the region and sound art with a focus on their interaction with the land and environment. This interdisciplinary collaboration will place a spotlight on Narrandera and respond socially and aesthetically to local agriculture and manufacturing industries.

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.

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

Regional Arts Fund NSW - List of Projects Funded 2015

New Initiatives

South East Arts (SEA) **Y1: \$23,300.00**
Waterways Museum
 Region: South East

South East Arts will partner with Erth Visual & Physical Inc. to work with local artists and community members to develop and deliver a creative installation as part of the Eurobodalla River of Art Festival 2015. The Waterways Museum will be a stunning visual experience, bringing to life the regions landscape and history through interactive installations, animation and imagined artefacts created by the community.

fLiNG Physical Theatre **Y1: \$22,805.00**
Home - YEAR 1 OF 2
 Region: South East

The development of a new work, HOME celebrates local people and their stories. Explored through dance, physical theatre and music, HOME questions what it means to belong, what community is and how we relate to our region's history. It is a collaboration between fLiNG Physical Theatre, local composers David Hewitt and Heath Cullen, choral leader Dan Scollay, film maker Brent Occleshaw and the Bega Historical Society.

Byron Shire Council **Y1: \$20,450.00**
Njadhu Mala Buhbiyn Waybar - I Will Blow The Fire
 Region: Northern Rivers

A series of cultural intensive workshops working with youth from the Brunswick Valley and beyond. The workshops will be led by cultural and Aboriginal artistic leaders from the local community and will include dance, song, music, visual arts, weaving and cultural artefact making.

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (Bathurst Regional Council) **Y1: \$20,000.00**
Central West Shorts Showcase
 Region: Central West

Ten plays have been selected from across the region that have been developed and produced locally for presentation in a Central West Shorts Showcase.

The Cad Factory **Y1: \$20,000.00**
On Common Ground
 Region: Western Riverina

On Common Ground is a community driven, site specific exploration of innovative contemporary textile practices, traditional textile crafts of the region and sound art with a focus on their interaction with the land and environment. This interdisciplinary collaboration will place a spotlight on Narrandera and will respond socially and aesthetically to local agriculture and manufacturing industries.

Dance Integrated Australia **Y1: \$20,000.00**
THE CORNER DANCE LAB
 Region: Northern Rivers

The Corner Dance Lab is a disability-inclusive skills development project facilitated by Dance Integrated Australia. This new project will primarily target local early career and established artists as well as artists from across Australia. Based at the Federal School of Arts, the program consists of workshops, master classes, mentoring and creative explorations in dance.

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BIG hART Inc Y1: \$19,016.00

Project Cosmopolitana

Region: All Regions

Big hART, in partnership with South East Arts, the Cooma-Monaro Council and Canberra Theatre Centre, will deliver a series of inclusive community workshops that strengthen the living cultural and cosmopolitan heritage in Cooma NSW. These will culminate in a collaborative large-scale theatre production, to premiere in 2015, celebrating migrant heritage important for the region, and the nation.

SPRUNG! Ensemble Y1: \$18,400.00

Encounters: Looking In, Looking Out (LILO)

Region: Northern Rivers

This two year project will develop interactive dance theatre modules that will explore the effects of chance encounters on our perceptions of identity, belonging, ability and disability. These modules will be explored through workshops that involve schools and other community groups and will potentially create a dance theatre/film performance.

Southern Tablelands Arts Inc. (STARTS) Y1: \$18,000.00

Puppet Up

Region: Southern Tablelands

A cultural development project to introduce children to puppetry, storytelling and performance with a three stage workshop process in small schools, followed by public performances across six communities. A masterclass will be offered to increase and extend skills amongst community theatre practitioners.

HotHouse Theatre Ltd Y1: \$16,060.00

Black Border Theatre

Region: Albury/Wodonga

In 2015 HotHouse will provide weekly theatre training for young Aboriginal people in the Albury Wodonga region, culminating in a fully resourced self-devised production at the Butter Factory Theatre.

Northern Rivers Screenworks Inc. Y1: \$15,000.00

First Break - New Indigenous Screen Projects

Region: Northern Rivers

This project will enable tangible career development outcomes for emerging Indigenous filmmakers, digital artists and screen practitioners. Selected participants will be mentored & equipped with teams & resources to undertake projects, such as short films, digital works or portfolios, that will help them progress their creative careers.

Rue de la Rocket Arts Collective Y1: \$13,453.00

Micro Galleries: Changing the World...in small and creative ways

Region: All Regions

Micro Galleries reclaims disused and forgotten spaces and reactivates them as tiny galleries that are free and accessible to the local community. Bringing together International and local artists, it features work that challenges ingrained ideas, blurs the lines between street art and fine art and aims to help change the way we see the world, our environment and our community.

Arts North West (ANW) Y1: \$13,331.00

ON TOUR - Eudaimonia

Region: North West

A series of creative development workshops with young people aged 7-12 years in New England North West theatre venues that will encourage the development of new regional theatre works. Using basel mask and folk lore, young people from around the region will workshop body, movement and storytelling using their own experiences as stimulus. Participants will then perform for their community.

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Murray Arts **Y1: \$8,300.00**
Car Boot Gallery
Region: Albury/Wodonga

How many artists can you fit in the back of the Murray Arts car? We're about to find out as we showcase the region's best contemporary artists in a completely transportable gallery. The exhibition will be specifically designed to pack into the boot of the Murray Arts car and not only will the artworks travel in the car but the gallery will too.

Singleton Council **Y1: \$5,827.00**
The Big Draw Singleton 2015
Region: Upper Hunter

Over a two-week period, artist and children's book author and illustrator Liz Anelli will be engaged to conduct drawing workshops with local primary schools, high schools, the general public and online, resulting in a public exhibition of works.

New England Writers Centre Inc. **Y1: \$3,300.00**
Youth Online
Region: North West

The writers centre will engage professional artists to deliver workshops in creative writing and illustration to primary school students in regional and remote areas of NSW via the Education Department's Video Conferencing system, together with Smartboards Interactive system.

Partnerships

Lieder Theatre Company Inc. **Y1: \$10,000.00**
SLIDE (your sticky fingers inside my mind)
Region: Southern Tablelands

As an extension of their Youth program, for the first time, the Lieder Youth Theatre Company will partner with Goulburn Mulwaree Council to create innovative performance opportunities. This program aims to enhance, promote and platform the ideas and passions of local youth from The Goulburn Group, Multicultural community, local disabled youth & Pejar Aboriginal Land Council.

Greater Taree City Council **Y1: \$9,665.00**
The Asia Manning Project
Region: Mid North Coast

Manning Regional Gallery will partner with the Migrant Settlement Project Office and TAFE North Coast Institute to deliver a vibrant program celebrating the contribution of Asian peoples to our community.

Residencies Mentorships

Lingua Franca Dance Theatre **Y1: \$28,190.00**
Unsustainable Behaviour
Region: Central West

Under the mentorship of Kate Champion, the Lingua Franca Dance Theatre will complete a new full length work - "Unsustainable Behaviour" during a residency at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. The theatre company will also deliver a community engagement series of workshops and master classes led by involved artists.

Kempsey Shire Council **Y1: \$24,000.00**
dLab - Digital Media/Arts Workshops and Mentorship Program
Region: Mid North Coast

In partnership with dLux Media Arts, the Kempsey Shire Council will deliver workshops in digital media and provide mentored training to local facilitators in the delivery of the program. The project aims to provide youth in the Macleay region with new skills to create new forms of cultural expressions, and build career pathways into the creative industries.

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Outback Arts

Y1: \$23,820.00

Outback Ceramics - Artist in Residence

Region: Far West

This project aims to establish and raise awareness of a creative arts industry hub in Coonamble. Local ceramicists and artists in the local community, surrounding far west NSW region, will be mentored by artist and educator Anna Kaineder while participating in creative industries development workshops.

Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA)

Y1: \$18,550.00

Bundjalung Nghari : The Gathering - Year 2 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.

Heaps Decent Ltd

Y1: \$16,800.00

Step out, Plug In, Speak Up

Region: Eastern Riverina

A community based music production and mentoring program that delivers creative skills development to three new Riverina communities and builds local professional capacity with three youth. This project will expand on the groundwork that has been established with diverse young people in the Wagga Wagga community, advancing their independence as creators and innovators locally.