



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Arts Fund supports 18 new projects across NSW in 2019

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) will provide \$402,765.50 to support 18 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2019.

The list of successful projects encompasses a broad spectrum of artforms including performance, literature, music, theatre, dance, screen, digital arts and cross-artform initiatives. This round of the Regional Arts Fund also included the Small Regional Festivals Support stream, which saw three volunteer-run festivals (Byron Harmony Day, Akoostic Festival and the Kari-Lachlan River Arts Festival) awarded funds to employ a part-time arts worker to manage the festival. Communities across the state including Wallabadah, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Wingham, Bermagui, Bathurst, Narrandera will benefit from this funding.

"Regional NSW is a diverse creative landscape, and it is fantastic to see that the Regional Arts Fund continues to attract projects of excellence throughout the state", Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW said.

"This highly competitive round demonstrates the importance of the Regional Arts Fund to so many NSW communities, and I am particularly looking forward to seeing the Akoostic Festival, Byron Harmony Day and Kari-Lachlan River Arts Festivals build their capacity as sustainable regional events through the support of this year's Small Regional Festivals Support stream", she added.

Examples of projects funded include:

- ***Miyay Miyay: A Creative Collaboration – Arts North West***
Miyay Miyay: A Creative Collaboration is a two-year project comprising of the development and tour of a performing arts piece based on the Gamilaroi version of 'Miyay Miyay', the 'Seven Sisters' songline, and is inspired by Country and the landscape of the New England North West. Central to the project will be an artistic collaboration between two key Gamilaroi artists – writer Cathy Craigie, and dancer Katie Leslie.
- ***Back in the Big Top – Flying Fruit Fly Circus***
Back in the Big Top is a partnership between Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Albury City and Circus Oz. The project will culminate in an original contemporary circus work to celebrate 40 years of a uniquely maverick creative spirit, evoking the early days whilst looking to the future of contemporary circus in Australia. This new show will receive a premiere big top season in Albury during 2019, ensuring that this is a regional and community-based celebration while also garnering national interest. *Back in the Big Top* will be the first major work directed by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus' new Artistic Director, Anni Davey.
- ***Halfway Print Fest – Salad Days***
Halfway Print Fest, established by Salad Days in 2017, is a celebration of independent publishing held in Wagga Wagga. Following the success of the first event in 2018, Salad Days will work towards an expanded program for 2019. In the lead-up to *Halfway Print Fest* 2019, Salad Days will host a 'Mobile DIY Lab' with local organisations, with the aim to both introduce the accessible art of zine-making to the community, and invite local groups to share their stories. In addition to the 'Mobile DIY Lab', the festival day (March 9, 2019) will include stalls, demonstrations, workshops and forums led by local and visiting artists.

- **Small Regional Festivals Support – Akoostic Festival**

The funding will allow the *Akoostic Festival* Committee to appoint a professional arts worker to provide mentorship, relevant knowledge and key contacts to the current Volunteer Coordinator. The employment of an arts worker will enhance the festival's capacity to create a wide impact, and ensure the longevity of the event for the benefit of the community and regional tourism. After 12 years of developing the event locally and regionally, a paid experienced arts worker will provide the *Akoostic Festival* with the opportunity for new future directions and a more sustainable future.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program administered by Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts NSW 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.

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For more information about the Regional Arts Fund contact Lexie Reeves, Manager, Grants & Projects, Regional Arts NSW at funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au or (02) 9270 2500.

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A full list of successful Regional Arts Fund applicants is attached.

Regional Arts Fund NSW – List of Projects Funded 2019

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia and meets the strategic priorities of supporting participation in, and access to, the arts and encouraging greater private sector support for the arts.

The program provides funding for grants, including quick response and community grants for arts projects, professional development for artists and arts workers, and community capacity building projects. The program also provides funding for high priority strategic projects that address a need facing the arts in regional areas.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia. In NSW, the Regional Arts Fund is administered by Regional Arts NSW according to the objectives and general eligibility determined by the Australian Government.

New Initiatives

Arts North West
Miyay Miyay: A Creative Collaboration

Y1: \$44,580.00
Y2: \$15,000.00

*Region: New England
North West*

Miyay Miyay: A Creative Collaboration is a two-year project comprising of the creative development of a performing arts piece based on the Gamilaroi version of 'Miyay Miyay', the 'Seven Sisters' songline, and is inspired by Country and the landscape of the New England North West. Central to the project will be an artistic collaboration between two key Gamilaroi artists – writer Cathy Craigie, and dancer Katie Leslie. In its entirety, this project will comprise of research and development, a creative residency, mentorships, documentation, presentation, further creative development and regional tour components.

Two Thumbs Up
Lullabies and Sweet Dreams

Y1: \$30,000.00

Region: Mid North Coast

Lullabies and Sweet Dreams is a cross-artform installation project led by professional artists Naomi Steinborner (Two Thumbs Up), Alison Williams (Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre) and Lizzy Rutten & Emily White (Grow the Music). The project will be created collaboratively with participants from the Happy Hearts Play Group, a Red Cross migrant parenting and playgroup program that engages families from migrant and refugee backgrounds. *Lullabies and Sweet Dreams* will explore parenting during extraordinary circumstances through storytelling, soundscape, music, visual arts and installation, culminating in an immersive exhibition and experience at the Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre as part of World Refugee week in 2019.

New England Writers Centre
Stories Connect

Y1: \$7,000.00

*Region: New England
North West*

Stories Connect is an innovative and creative multi-arts project aimed at forging fruitful connections between the newly-

resettled Yazidi refugee community in Armidale and the broader community, through the creation and sharing of stories. With a mix of writing and illustration workshops for school-aged children, story, songwriting, poetry and photographic narrative workshops for young people, and storytelling/sharing sessions for adults and children. The project will be delivered in partnership with Settlement Services International, who will facilitate consultation with the local refugee community, Armidale Regional Council, and Arts North West.

Four Winds

Y1: \$20,000.00

Lady Jane – Bermagui Tales

Region: South East NSW

This project takes its inspiration from 'Lady Jane', a 100-year-old wooden Bermagui fishing boat. The local community, in partnership with the Bermagui Historical society, will contribute/collect stories about Bermagui's long heritage as a fishing port, and the role vessels like 'Lady Jane' played in the economic and social wellbeing of this town. Four Winds will engage Sam Thomas, a musician, choreographer and community artist who, with local artists, will lead the development of the community's creative response to the stories collected. A community performance with 'Lady Jane' as the back-drop will be the culmination of this project.

The CAD Factory

Y1: \$19,220.00

Yield

Region: Riverina

Yield is a cross-regional project led by the CAD Factory, Griffith Regional Art Gallery, and Riverina Community College. The project is additionally supported by Western Riverina Arts and Eastern Riverina Arts. *Yield* will promote the professional practice of artists with learning disabilities to the region, through development periods in Wagga Wagga, Narrandera and Griffith, culminating in an exhibition and public program featuring performance, film, paintings and drawings by 15 artists. This initiative is aimed at changing attitudes and access barriers faced by artists with intellectual disabilities.

The WIRED Lab

Y1: \$23,000.00

Electronic Sheep Orchestra

Regions: Southern Tablelands, South West Slopes & Riverina

Electronic Sheep Orchestra is a part of 'agri(culture) II', an on-going The WIRED Lab project where artists collaborate with farming/rural communities. Working with students from Binalong Public School, artist/musician David Burraston will explore electronics through the students' lived experiences of agriculture. With Burraston, the students will develop an orchestra of electronic devices that explore current and future farming practices. A two-year project, the creative outcomes from the project will be presented at two major events, including The WIRED Lab's 'Wired Open Day' Festival (May 2020) and Artstate (November 2020).

Bathurst Writers' & Readers' Festival

Y1: \$9,480.00

Poems Plays & Stories

Region: Central West

The *Poems, Plays & Stories* program will celebrate literature through poetry, play-making and storytelling by local regional artists, extending the reach of Bathurst Writers' & Readers' Festivals' program. The project will culminate in a poetry anthology by local poets to be launched at the festival, the development of two new plays written by local playwrights, and a storytelling project titled 'Small WOMAN/country GIRL'.

Salad Days

Y1: \$9,397.50

Halfway Print Fest

Region: Riverina

Halfway Print Fest (HPF), established by Salad Days in 2017, is a celebration of independent publishing held in Wagga Wagga, NSW. Following the success of the first HPF in 2018, Salad Days will work towards an expanded program for

2019. In the lead-up to HPF 2019, Salad Days will host a 'Mobile DIY Lab' with local organisations, with the aim to both introduce the accessible art of zine-making to the community, and invite local groups to share their stories at HPF 2019. In addition to the 'Mobile DIY Lab', the festival day (March 9, 2019) will include stalls, demonstrations, workshops and forums led by local and visiting artists.

Y1: \$19,588.00

Move Me
Connections, Creations and Transformations

Region: South East NSW

This project will see the professional development of emerging regional artists Gabriela Green Olea and Kayah Guenther (both Young Regional Artist Scholarship recipients). This project aims to build the capacity of the newly established inclusive dance collective Move Me, an organisation providing dance training for participants of mixed abilities in regional NSW. The project includes classes, rehearsals and choreographic development, culminating in a medium length work to be presented at the end of the year as part of fLiNG Physical Theatre's annual 'Take Flight' event.

Y1: \$20,000.00

OUTPOST
Expeditions

Region: Central West

Expeditions will see the development and touring of two theatre works from plays and texts within the HSC drama and English curriculums. Employing emerging artists who have chosen to practice in regional Australia, OUTPOST will create a tour of these performances, along with a workshop program, that will be delivered to school audiences and communities in the Central West. This project will provide accessible and exciting contemporary performances for regional audiences by regional artists, and establish a sustainable touring model for OUTPOST.

Outback Arts
Baiame's Ngunnhu through Augmented Reality

Region: North West NSW

Y1: \$20,000.00

Delivering on the aspirations of the Brewarrina community, this project will record the stories, traditions and history of Baiame's Ngunnhu (Brewarrina Fish Traps) using augmented reality, as told by the Ngemba, Wonkamurra, Wailwan and Gomaroi people who have shared and maintained the traps for thousands of years. Over 40,000 years old, Baiame's Ngunnhu is one of the oldest man-made structures on Earth, with elaborate rock weirs and pools along the riverbed built by ancient tribes to catch fish as they swam upstream. The outcome of this project will be an augmented reality experience that audiences can access via a QR code. The project will be launched with an exhibition.

Partnerships

RealArtWorks Inc.
The (un)Usual: When the Familiar Becomes Strange

Region: Northern Rivers

Y1: \$20,000.00

The (un)Usual is an experimental cross-artform project involving partnerships between emerging and professional artists of varying abilities. Posing the question 'What happens when the familiar becomes strange?', visiting professional artists will present and collaborate with local artists to produce innovative live art outcomes in both traditional performance spaces and unusual venues in the Lismore CBD, Wilsons Riverbank and South Lismore. *The (un)Usual* is a creative laboratory playfully investigating our relationship with the material world, both natural and manmade, through sound, text and image.

Screenwave**Y1: \$27,000.00****Y2: \$27,000.00****Nextwave: Building a Network for
Regional NSW Youth Film Development***Regions: Riverina, Upper Hunter, Mid North
Coast, New England and Northern Rivers*

Screenwave will partner with Mayfly Media and Got Ya Back Productions across two years to develop Nextwave's youth film and mental health education program in the Riverina and Upper Hunter – adding to the current regions of Mid North Coast, New England and Northern Rivers. Nextwave will train mid-career filmmakers as workshop facilitators, educating more young regional Australians with employable creative skills. The program will raise the profile of screen arts in regional NSW schools, build capacity for teachers to support student filmmakers and see the production of original films to be distributed nationally.

**Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project
Inc.****Y1: \$11,700.00****Ephemeral***Region: South East NSW*

Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project Inc. and Lonely Arts Club Pambula will collaborate to present *Ephemeral*, a one-day festival celebrating the ephemeral landscape of Panboola and the creativity it inspires. This vibrant program of art, musicians, creative workshops, demonstrations, market and food stalls will be held on Saturday 13th April 2019. The festival will include site-specific art installations by local artists; four workshops in woodcarving, printmaking, screen-printing and textile craft; a masterclass for ephemeral art; a youth literature workshop; a storytelling circle for children; and performances by local musicians and music students.

Flying Fruit Fly Circus**Y1: \$19,800.00****Back in the Big Top***Region: Murray*

Back in the Big Top is a partnership between Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Albury City and Circus Oz. The project will culminate in an original contemporary circus work to celebrate 40 years of a uniquely maverick creative spirit, evoking the early days whilst looking to the future of contemporary circus in Australia. This new show will receive a premiere big top season in Albury during 2019, ensuring that this is a regional and community-based celebration while also garnering national interest. *Back in the Big Top* will be the first major work directed by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus' new Artistic Director, Anni Davey.

Small Regional Festivals Support

Byron Harmony Day**Y1: \$10,000.00****Y2: \$10,000.00***Region: Northern Rivers*

Now in its' twelfth year, Byron Harmony Festival will begin its evolution towards a vision of a new, larger festival; connecting with the wider North Coast and Northern Rivers Region of NSW under the rebrand of 'Colours of the World Festival'. The festival will celebrate cultural diversity from the region, with music, dance, multi-media, food and crafts and coincide with Harmony Day celebrations around Australia. The Small Regional Festivals Support funding will allow for the employment of a Coordinator who will facilitate the festival's new vision.

Akoostic Festival**Y1: \$10,000.00****Y2: \$10,000.00***Regions: Mid North Coast*

The Small Regional Festivals Support funding will allow the *Akoostic Festival* Committee to appoint a professional arts worker to provide mentorship, relevant knowledge and key contacts to the present Volunteer Coordinator. The employment of an arts worker will enhance the festival's capacity to create a wide impact, and ensure the longevity of the

event for the benefit of the community and regional tourism. After 12 years of developing the event locally and regionally, a paid experienced arts worker will provide the *Akoostic Festival* with the opportunity for new future directions and a more sustainable future.

Kari-Lachlan River Arts Festival

Region: Central West

Y1: \$10,000.00

Y2: \$10,000.00

The Small Regional Festivals Support funding will allow for the employment of a Program Coordinator for the *River Arts Festival* Main Event. The Coordinator, Rob Shannon, will be engaged from early 2019 for the months leading up to the event, and will be responsible for all community collaboration, stage management and the presentation of the festival finale to be held on Saturday 25 May, 2019.
