



Media release

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Regional Arts Fund delivers 20 major new projects in NSW \$271,600 in funding for new projects across regional NSW in 2010

A total of \$271,600 will go towards 20 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2010 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

The list of successful projects encompasses a broad spectrum of art forms including film and video, music, dance, literature, visual arts and theatre. Communities across the state - from White Cliffs, Condobolin and Tottenham in the west, to Lismore in the Northern Rivers and Berridale in the far south - will benefit from this funding.

'We received a record number of applications for the 2010 round of funding with almost \$1.3million requested,' said Elizabeth Rogers, CEO of Regional Arts NSW. 'The applications were of a very high standard and we were delighted that the panel allocated funds to seven groups who have applied to the fund for the first time. Among these was a group from the remote western NSW town of Tottenham. The range of projects funded demonstrates the variety of ways that the Regional Arts Fund supports arts and cultural development in the diverse regions of this state. Seven of the projects will involve a number of neighbouring communities or regions. There will be four youth projects, four involving Indigenous communities and two working with people with disabilities.'

Examples of the projects funded include:

- **Greater Western Area Health's *Basket Cases*** – an artist exchange, mentoring and design development project involving two artists working with eight emerging Aboriginal artists in Orange and Condobolin developing skills in terrazzo and weaving with the aim of creating site-specific works for the hospital re-development in Orange.
- **Clarence Valley Council's *Gherkin – the Revolution*** – a three year youth-initiated project providing a range of arts based workshops to mainstream, marginalised and at-risk young people to increase participation, develop new skills, share stories and build resilience.
- ***The Dorrigo Rainforest Enviro-Aboriginal Interpretative Project*** – a partnership between **Arts Mid North Coast and National Parks and Wildlife, Dorrigo Rainforest Centre** involving a series of Aboriginal, environmental and creative ceramic workshops to create and install a 'Welcome Wall' that interprets the Aboriginal and environmental significance of the Gondwana National Park.
- **South East Arts's *Poetry in Prison*** - a poet / writer will conduct poetry writing workshops with inmates at the Cooma Correctional Centre with works to be published in an anthology.

A full list of funded projects is attached.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative to support sustainable, community-based cultural development in regional, remote and isolated areas in Australia. The funding is targeted at activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits, that develop partnerships and cultural networks and that provide skills development opportunities.

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.

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Regional Arts Fund NSW - List of Projects Funded 2010

New Initiatives

Arts Upper Hunter Y1: **\$19,000.00**
Shift - a play about contemporary life in the resource rich Hunter Valley Y2: **\$19,000.00**
Region: Upper Hunter

A two-year project developing a community play about the impact of shift work on communities in the Hunter Valley. Professional playwrights and directors will be engaged to work with community members at all stages of writing and production.

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre/Bathurst Regional Council **\$16,500.00**
Central West World Workshop Retreat
Region: Central West

The inaugural Central West World Workshop Retreat will bring together key performing arts facilitators from Australia and overseas to explore engagement with rural and remote Indigenous communities.

Cessnock Regional Art Gallery Inc **\$17,250.00**
Awabakal to Wonarua: Walking the Boundaries
Region: Hunter

Development of artworks which, through oral history, archeological research and anecdotal evidence, will explore the culture, stories and lives of the original Hunter Valley inhabitants. Local Indigenous artists will meet with local artists and Elders to inform the works, to be exhibited at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery in 2010 followed by a community forum, story-telling and outreach program.

CINWEST Y1: **\$15,000.00**
Media Literacy and Digital Filmmaking workshop (Chapter 2) Y2: **\$15,000.00**
Region: statewide

Short film and VJ workshops for young people in the communities of Tibooburra, Broken Hill, Menindee, White Cliffs, Wilcannia, Gloucester and Muswellbrook with work produced to be screened at film festivals in Broken Hill and Auburn.

Clarence Valley Council Y1: **\$19,000.00**
Gherkin - the Revolution Y2: **\$19,000.00**
Region: Northern Rivers Y3: **\$19,000.00**

A three-year youth initiated project to provide a range of arts based workshops to mainstream, marginalised and at-risk young people in the north coast communities of Grafton, Yamba, Maclean, Coutts Crossing, Brooms Head and Glenreagh.

Foundations of our Future Land Council Alliance **\$19,000.00**
Foundations of our Future Weaving Master Classes
Region: Mid North Coast

Series of two-day workshops in nine Aboriginal communities in the mid north coast aimed at training Aboriginal weaving teachers. The workshops will cover weaving techniques and the collecting and dyeing of local materials for weaving. The work created during the workshops will be exhibited at the second annual Saltwater Freshwater Festival in January 2011.

Guyra Adult Learning Association (GALA) Inc **\$8,140.00**
Guyra Art workshops, exhibitions and performance events
Region: North West

GALA and Guyra's Performing Art and Community Theatre Association (PACTA) will present up to ten arts workshops involving high profile regional artists. Each workshop will conclude with a mini public performance or exhibition, leading to a major public exhibition in 2011.

Kurrajong Waratah **\$15,000.00**
All Abilities Theatre Company
Region: Eastern Riverina

Establishment of a performing arts company to cater for the needs of people with a disability. The company will also be able to provide short courses and workshops for clients of Riverina service providers, on a user pays basis.

Outback Theatre for Young People (OTYP) Inc. Y1: **\$8,000.00**
Starting from Scratch Y2: **\$20,000.00**
Region: South West

A two year playwrighting and performance project for young people in Deniliquin and Finley. A youth director and playwright will work with young people to write and perform their own plays, as well as develop and perform a new Australian work commissioned by OTYP.

Slippry Sirkus Inc **\$19,000.00**
Cross Currents - "Ripples"
Region: Mid North Coast

Professional artists in various art forms will work with and mentor disadvantaged youth in six communities of the Hastings, Macleay Valley and Nambucca local government areas to promote arts practice, build skills and leadership, improve social inclusion and produce quality arts based community outcomes.

Snowy River Shire Council **\$9,730.00**
You, Me & Us Youth theatre project
Region: South East

Youth theatre workshops to be conducted in Cooma and the small isolated communities of Jindabyne and Bombala devising short original theatre pieces based on local current events and social issues.

Southern Tablelands Arts Inc. (STARTS) **\$17,500.00**
Poetry - The Indelible Stencil
Region: Southern Tablelands

Nine emerging and established poets in eight local government areas in the Southern Tablelands will develop new work that will be transformed into permanent public artwork through designed stencil plates installed on exterior walls and in spaces reflecting the interests of the region and its poets.

Woolyungah Indigenous Centre **\$9,909.80**
Art for Country: contemporary Aboriginal arts from the NSW South Coast
Region: Illawarra Shoalhaven

Engagement of a regionally based Indigenous research assistant and up to three senior artists to facilitate consultations with South Coast Aboriginal communities towards the production of a book highlighting contemporary Aboriginal art in the NSW South Coast.

Partnerships

Arts Mid North Coast / Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, National Parks and Wildlife **\$19,500.00**
Dorrigo Rainforest Enviro-Aboriginal Interpretive Project
Region: Mid North Coast

Engagement of the local Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal people, schools, local artists, community members and visitors in a creative and informative project to promote, interpret and welcome people to the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. The project will involve a series of Aboriginal, environmental and creative ceramic workshops to create and install a ceramic 'Welcome Wall' that interprets the Aboriginal and environmental significance of the Gondwana National Park.

Murray Arts / SITE Inc **\$7,500.00**
dis/assemble project
Region: Albury/Wodonga

A dance project exploring the notion of ability and disability through the mediums of dance and film. Choreographers, filmmakers and dancers will work with participants with and without disabilities to create new contemporary dance works.

South East Arts Region (SEAR) / Cooma Correctional Centre **\$5,000.00**
Poetry in Prison
Region: South East

A professional poet / writer will conduct six poetry writing workshops with inmates of the Cooma Correctional Centre with works published in an anthology and entered in Cooma's annual 'Feast of Poetry' competition.

Residencies / Mentorships

Greater Western Area Health Service **\$7,070.00**

Basket Cases

Region: Central West

An artist exchange, mentoring and design development project with two artists working with eight emerging Aboriginal artists in Orange and Condobolin to develop skills in terrazzo and weaving with the aim of creating site-specific projects for the hospital redevelopment in Orange. This is an early stage project of a cultural development strategy for the Orange Health Service.

Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA) **\$19,000.00**

Generator Residency

Region: Northern Rivers

As part of the partnership and art exchange between NORPA (Lismore) and Performance Space (Sydney), an experienced Sydney-based artist will work in-residence at NORPA with three local, mature age dancers to share creative processes and to develop a new dance work.

Northern Rivers Screenworks **\$17,500.00**

Mentoring the Next Generation of Screen Content Creators

Region: Northern Rivers

Four emerging producers will be mentored over a period of six weeks by a senior producer on a commissioned project (feature film, documentary, TV program, new media program) either in pre, during or post production or a mix of all stages. Guidance and assistance will continue for three to six months after this period.

Tottenham Welfare Council Inc. **\$3,000.00**

Community Band

Region: Central West

Weekly music tutorials and concert band rehearsals for members of the remote community of Tottenham during 2010 culminating in a public performance.