



Media Release – Tues 14th September 2010

OUTBACK ARTS EMBRACES CHANGE

The Outback Arts Regional Arts Board has unveiled several major new reforms to the organisation in the most significant modernisation since being formed in 1999. The Chairperson, Amanda Colwell, has described the restructure as 'essential for continued support of artistic and cultural development in the Far West region which includes Bourke, Cobar, Coonamble, Walgett & Warren Shires'.

At a special General meeting of the board held on the 20th August 2010 the decision was made to bring Outback Arts into line with the other Regional Arts Boards in NSW and delegate the management of the organisation to the Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO) The meeting, in a sign of an increased focus on new technology, was held electronically and attended by the entire Board of 10. The new structure will consist of

- the RADO assisted by a
- Communications & Promotions Officer (CAPO) and an
- Office Assistant

All these new positions will be advertised shortly. Following the Special meeting the board accepted the resignation of the acting CAPO, Helen Cant who has been performing the role since December.

At the recent quarterly board meeting of Outback Arts held in Warren on the 9th September, the Board took another step towards transforming the organisation by agreeing with a recommendation from their marketing sub-committee to bring an end to individual and group membership. This will involve a change to the constitution and could occur as early as December. Ms Colwell explains that 'opening up the organization to all residents of our member shires makes it easier to promote our services to a wider target market and is an exciting step forward'. The board also spent considerable time developing the roles and responsibilities for the new staffing positions. At the end of the board meeting the Executive Officer, Ms Margie Pye, tendered her resignation. Ms Pye has been with Outback Arts for over four years and has overseen a particularly busy previous 12 months in which Outback Arts had three Regional Arts Development Officers in as many months. The board wished Ms Pye well and thanked her for her commitment and dedication to the organization.

The Chair of Regional Arts NSW, Meg Larkin has supported the new directions for Outback Arts.

'This is a positive step forward for Outback Arts and recognises the position held by the other thirteen RADOs in the Regional Arts NSW network. We look forward to working with the board, the RADO and the far western communities developing arts and cultural capacity of this region.'

Outback Arts will continue to operate as usual during the recruitment of new staff over the coming months.

For further information or media interviews contact the Chair Amanda Colwell on (02) 6823 8274 or 0458 238 274

www.outbackarts.com