



MEDIA RELEASE

October 2011

Regional Arts Fund delivers 22 major new projects in NSW \$330,906 in funding for new projects across regional NSW

The Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Local Government and Minister for the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP, announced a total of \$330,906 will go towards 22 new projects in regional, rural and remote New South Wales in 2012 through the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund.

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

'With 78 applications received and over \$1.3 million requested, this round of the Regional Arts Fund was very competitive and the panel commented that decisions on funding were very difficult due to the high standard of most 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 22 successful applicants, three of which had applied to the fund for the first time. Among the projects funded were four targeting Indigenous communities, seven involving young people and two working with people with disabilities.'

Examples of the projects funded include:

- **Multi Task Human Resource Foundation's *Tra La La Blip and Friends*** – a socially inclusive electronic music program for people with disabilities, utilising cutting edge techniques and equipment to develop skills in sound art, music production, field recording, collaboration and live performance.
- **Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation's *Stitching Workshops*** – a series of textile workshops to be conducted over a 12 week period in the Aboriginal communities of Birpai (Port Macquarie), Kempsey, Bunyah (Wauchope) and Forster.
- **South West Art's *Studio 2710* project** in Deniliquin, a program of visual arts, music and movement workshops for people with a disability as part of the development of an Arts and Disability Studio space.
- **fLiNG Physical Theatre's *The Idea of South***, a new work and skills development project using aerial performance, contemporary dance, text and projected imagery, exploring the idea of life in the far south east of NSW.

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 for 2012

New Initiatives

Arts Northern Rivers **\$10,000.00**

Creative Industries Professional Development Program

Region: Northern Rivers

A creative industries professional development and market linkage program, inclusive of workshops, seminars, forums and one on one clinics, for Northern Rivers based creative industries practitioners in the sectors of art, design, digital media, fashion and music.

Arts OutWest **\$9,890.00**

Platform

Region: Central West

'Platform' will target young Aboriginal people to participate in a program which aims to equip participants with skills to produce work in a variety of new media practices and to present an online platform to showcase the work produced. This will enable an online and proactive youth community arts hub, connecting young people in the Central West region with each other and their communities.

Barnardos Cobar **\$12,886.00**

The Yala Radio Project

Region: Far West

The Yala Radio Project invites young people to learn Radio Broadcasting skills through a dynamic student transition program. Students and Community Elders will learn skills to help re-establish the Cobar Community Radio Station, passing on the skills learned to other community members to ensure the future success of the Radio Station.

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (Bathurst Regional Council) **\$28,182.00**

Aboriginal Performing Arts Catapult Project

Region: Central West

The Catapult Festival and the Aboriginal Performing Arts Program at BMEC will work together to bring Indigenous trainers and those with expertise working with Indigenous groups to Bathurst for the Catapult Festival to form 'Circus Mob', which will then launch a local long term Aboriginal circus and physical theatre troupe in the region.

Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Inc (CHRC) **\$2,843.00**

Music for Spring

Region: Mid North Coast

Music in Spring is a new initiative to provide a platform for public performance by both professional musicians and amateur groups living in Coffs Harbour through 3 free concerts which will take place on the forecourt of the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium.

Greater Hume Shire Council **\$8,685.00**

Against the Grain Drama

Region: Albury/Wodonga

A three day workshop program in performing arts and production skills will be conducted with young people in the Southern Riverina during the October 2012 holidays. The workshops will be facilitated by specialised tutors from both the local area and city institutions.

Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA) **\$27,171.00**

Railway Wonderland

Region: Northern Rivers

Railway Wonderland is a dream play and theatre installation inspired by disused railway stations that exist throughout regional NSW. This is a site specific work drawing on an iconic location, to tell multiple stories across time - mapping the development of a regional centre. The project has been developed as part of Generator, NORPA's innovative new theatre work initiative.

Orange Regional Conservatorium of Music **\$7,500.00**

Bushranger: celebrating a multi-school community in the Central West

Region: Central West

The composition, workshopping and performance of a 12-minute musical performance piece devised by Australian composer Kevin Barker for the Conservatorium's Combined Instrumental and Choral Ensembles. The piece is based on the poem 'A Bushranger' by celebrated Orange-born poet Kenneth Slessor.

Outback Theatre for Young People Inc. (OTYP) **\$18,500.00**
Reverberate, Stage One
Region: South West

Reverberate is a two-year collaborative theatre project which will combine music and theatrical storytelling to create an original electronic opera with the young people of Deniliquin. Stage One will build skills, generate original content and include a series of public performances which will engage a wide audience and build young people's profile in the community.

Parkes Film Society **\$15,000.00**
Rural Youth Film Initiative
Region: Central West

The Rural Youth Film Initiative (RYFI) is a project to encourage youth in the region to make short films about their district in any genre (drama, short documentary or experimental). The project will provide basic training in the use of domestic video and editing equipment leading to a Film Festival to screen the films and celebrate the short films they have made.

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation **\$21,840.00**
Stitching Workshops
Region: Mid North Coast

As a follow up to the successful 'Stitching Memories' program in 2009/2010, textile workshops will be conducted over a 12 week period in the Aboriginal communities of Birpai (Port Macquarie), Kempsey, Bunyah (Wauchope) and Forster.

South West Arts **\$10,000.00**
Studio 2710
Region: South West

As part of the development of an Arts and Disability Studio in Deniliquin, a program of visual arts, music and movement workshops for people with a disability will be conducted.

Tamworth Regional Art Gallery **\$7,204.00**
Archers Arcadia
Region: North West

Residency and exhibition by contemporary artist David Archer at Tamworth Regional Gallery including an outreach program and artist talks. Archer's work combines art, mechanics, science and humour.

Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc (Booranga Writers Centre) **\$9,800.00**
The Riverina Anthology of Multicultural Voices
Region: Eastern Riverina

The collation and launch of an anthology of work created by residents with a multicultural background from the Riverina Region. The project will primarily include written works (including some bi-lingual works), but also visual arts and a multimedia CD including readings and music.

Partnerships

Multi Task Human Resource Foundation Ltd. **\$15,000.00**
Tralala Blip and friends
Region: Northern Rivers

The project will continue and develop an inclusive electronic music and sound project for people with disabilities. The project will diversify collaborations and build on skills developed in the 2011 project.

West Darling Arts **\$8,500.00**
Art in Health Program
Region: West Darling

A collaboration between the Artist Community and Broken Hill Department of Rural Health in Far Western NSW that aims to lead the way in developing a well -rounded health practice. The program will offer 8 sessions per term in various arts activities to undergraduate medical, nursing and allied health students throughout 2012.

Residencies / Mentorships

Arts OutWest SYN-THESIS <i>Region: Central West</i>	\$18,095.00
<p>Creative development and performance of a new youth dance/theatre work 'SYN-THESIS' in Bathurst. Young regional artists will engage with mentors in an exploration of physical performance training and creative process, with excerpt performances at the 'Catapult' Festival (March) and full performances at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.</p>	
Beyond Empathy Anaiwan Songline Project <i>Region: North West</i>	\$25,000.00
<p>A new media project that documents stories from Anaiwan elders and traditional custodians in the New England region, incorporating contemporary artforms of film, outdoor projection, theatre, dance and hip hop. The stories will be edited into Screenworks to form an interactive website, creating modern digital interpretations of traditional stories along the Anaiwan songlines.</p>	
fLiNG Physical Theatre The Idea of South <i>Region: South East</i>	\$15,000.00
<p>'The Idea of South' is a new work created in three residencies for a main stage season. Using aerial performance, contemporary dance, text and projected imagery, the piece will be an impressionistic contemporary dance work of deep abyss and living edges exploring the idea of life in the far south east of NSW.</p>	
HotHouse Theatre THE STUDIO ENSEMBLE - new work training Project <i>Region: Albury/Wodonga</i>	\$19,810.00
<p>HotHouse Theatre will mentor 10 young ensemble members in the process of creating new work for the stage by using a current HotHouse emerging artists' commission 'The Border Trilogy' as the springboard.</p>	
Local M.A.D.E. Incorporated Local M.A.D.E. <i>Region: Mid North Coast</i>	\$20,000.00
<p>Expansion of current workshop program to more youth in the region and to develop the skills of potential workshop facilitators. Four mentors will oversee the workshop programs (and also mentor local potential facilitators) in various forms of dance, visual and electronic art, music production and marketing.</p>	
The Cad Factory Rural Residency Program 2012 <i>Region: Eastern Riverina</i>	\$20,000.00
<p>The Cad Factory Rural Residency Program will engage community members of the Western Riverina in collaborations with visiting national and International artists in creating contemporary artwork in response to the land, community, place, cultural and social landscape.</p>	