

# Regional Arts Fund

## Community Grant

### Case study:

## LOLA (Linton on Literary Arts)



*Anne E Stewart interviews Jessie Stevens and Dan Peterson from Cake Industries.  
Photograph by Halina Szynda*

### Project Summary

LOLA was a multi-arts storytelling development project that told the story of past and present Linton. Bringing together tree-changers and long-term residents, town folks and farmers, LOLA offered the community diverse opportunities to connect and share stories. Working with local artists and community groups, the LOLA team held storytelling workshops, play readings, photographic exhibitions and songwriting workshops culminating in a vibrant celebratory event of storytelling that succeeded in its aim of putting Linton on the map and revitalising its main street.

### Community Benefits

The festival's focus on the sharing of stories through art, be it written, spoken, sung, painted or performed opened the community up to new experiences, increased community cohesion and enhanced community spirit.

Highlights included an increased awareness of local history, community groups and existing social and creative opportunities. There was an increased public awareness of local businesses, and uptake of local accommodation resulting in financial boost for the town. Increased support from local government via an Arts and Cultural Officer being based in Linton one day a week as of Jan 2019. And finally, Writers Victoria has offered Linton and District Progress Association a one year membership, as well as increased levels of support for future events and the opportunity to apply for Writers Victoria grants.

### Public Outcomes

LOLA showcased the talents of local and visiting artists. A song was written and performed about a local elderly identity Betty Grigg. Linton Primary School was presented with a Bundjil Nest sculpture. Writers Victoria held subsidised writing workshops for the community. Local stories were documented and archived for future projects. The Linton Play Reading Group, working with a professional playwright, put together a play featuring key points of Linton's history. A new arts space, End of the World Gallery, was created for exhibition of local artist works and workshops. A free public street library was created. Public recognition of indigenous history was increased thanks to a smoking ceremony performed by Bonnie Chew. LOLA will be an ongoing community event.

### Artist Benefits

Three of the visual artists participating in the festival received commissions as result of their exposure through LOLA. One artist received a commission and an offer of an exhibition.

A studio space has been created at Known World Book Shop that will provide an employment opportunity for a curator.

Commission artists Cake Industries, went on to work with Linton and District Progress Association on the "Mecha" exhibition held in January 2019

The committee is planning LOLA 2 to take place in October 2019.



*Trudy Edngerly. Photograph by Oona Smith*



*Bundjil Nest presented to the School. Photograph by Oona Smith*



<b>Project Start Date</b>	01/02/2018
<b>Project End Date</b>	28/10/2018
<b>Project Location</b>	Linton
<b>Federal Electorate</b>	Corangamite
<b>No. Audience</b>	500
<b>No. Participants</b>	100
<b>Project Beneficiary</b>	General Community
<b>Main Art Form</b>	Literature
<b>No. Artists Paid</b>	7
<b>No. Artists Unpaid</b>	29
<b>No. Arts Worker Paid</b>	6
<b>No. Arts Worker Unpaid</b>	24