



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**23 June 2008**

### **\$102,880 OF REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR VICTORIA**

The Chair of Regional Arts Victoria, Mike Zafiropoulos, has just announced that funding for 9 projects totalling \$102,880 will go to regional, rural and remote communities across Victoria.

The funds are part of \$832,379 in funding approved by Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett through the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government program administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

"In this round, the panel was delighted to see a number of applications focussing on enhancing performance skills in regional communities," the Chair of Regional Arts Victoria Mike Zafiropoulos said. "Many projects will use theatre and dance to explore local issues and celebrate local cultural identity. The visual arts are also strongly represented through ceramic and sculptural installation projects."

Projects include all art forms and will involve people from regional and remote communities in a wide range of arts and cultural activities.

- In Ballarat, writer and director Donna Jackson will create a new work titled *Dust* in collaboration with the University of Ballarat, artists and sufferers of asbestos related diseases. The piece will be a celebration of the endurance, integrity and courage of those affected by asbestos related diseases and will be used as part of a public awareness campaign.
- In Morwell, theatre group Roundangle will highlight the important role smell plays in defining identity and acceptance by working with migrants to the Latrobe Valley on an interactive performance involving scent, food, colour, sound and movement.
- In Mansfield, ceramic artist, Ann Ferguson will lead workshops with artists to undertake an artistic examination of the cultural heritage of the area's mountain cattleman huts. The project will result in the creation of 10 ceramic sculptures to be installed as a permanent public artwork.
- In Mildura, regional theatre company The Old Van will stage the world premier of a new Australian piece of theatre involving members of the local community led by professional artists.

The Regional Arts Fund was established to give all Australians, wherever they live, better access to opportunities to practise and experience the arts. The Regional Arts Fund also aims to increase opportunities for isolated Indigenous and/or smaller regional communities. A complete list of the funded projects is attached and available from [www.rav.net.au](http://www.rav.net.au).

#### **Contact**

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## **REGIONAL ARTS FUND PROJECTS Round 1, 2008- VICTORIA**

**9 projects totalling \$102,880**

***Other Smells*** Roundangle, Morwell - \$14,000

*Other Smells* is an investigation into smell and cultural perception. By working with people who have migrated to the Latrobe Valley region from culturally diverse backgrounds, Roundangle will facilitate the expression of their ideas through scent, food, colour, sound and movement. The public outcome will be an interactive, promenade style performance that takes the audience on a journey through the cultural, mental and experiential worlds of the participants, highlighting the important role smell plays in defining identity and acceptance.

***High Country Huts Ceramic Murals Project*** Arts Council of Mansfield, Mansfield - \$6,080

Ceramic artist, Ann Ferguson will lead workshops with Mansfield artists in which participants will undertake an artistic examination of the cultural heritage of the area's high country huts – many of which were destroyed the 2006/07 bushfires. The culmination of the project will be the creation of 10 ceramic sculptures each referencing a particular high country hut to be installed as a permanent public art works.

***Sweet Region Back Home*** Next Wave Festival, Bendigo, Mildura, Warrnambool - \$15,000

*Sweet Region back home* is four discrete youth dance workshops that follow on from Next Wave's regional program, *Sweet Region* which showcases the work of 11 young, regionally-based Victorian choreographers, dancers, and artists. Sweet Region back home will employ these artists to work with their local peers and key community organisations in Bendigo, Warrnambool and Mildura. Public showings of the works and ideas generated through these activities will take place after the workshops in each of the locations.

***Proud Past Vibrant Future*** Stawell Regional Arts, Stawell - \$11,500

*Proud Past Vibrant Future* will see prominent Portland artist Carmel Wallace team up with local Stawell artist Barb Venn to lead workshops with local artists and youth from diverse backgrounds. Through these workshops, local artists will explore the medium of found object art. Artists will then create found object art installations as public art for Stawell.

***Eastern Long Neck Turtle by Glenn Romanis*** Golden Plains Shire, Teesdale - \$10,000

This project will involve the creation of a new work by Glenn Romanis in partnership with the Teesdale community. Responding to local issues around isolation and a lack of space for arts and cultural activity, the work will form part of a community pavilion which will provide an informal meeting place as well as a venue for cultural events including theatrical productions, live music, festivals and other events.

***Tatungalung Gathering*** Gippsland Lakes Community Health, Lakes Entrance - \$10,000

*Tatungalung Gathering* will be an inspiring meeting place for all people, designed and built by indigenous and non indigenous families of Lakes Entrance as part of the Community Precinct gardens. Bringing together artists and crafts people who live in Tatungalung country, the project will allow the artists to collaborate and share their skills with the local indigenous and non-indigenous community.

***My Homeland*** The Old Van, Mildura - \$15,000

Written by Tracy Bourne *My Homeland* is a new Australian piece of atmospheric theatre which melds music, performance, song and language. Produced by regional theatre company The Old Van, the production will involve members of the local community led by professional artists. *My Homeland* is a site-specific work and will premier in a shearing shed in the grounds of the first homestead of Mildura.

***Dust*** Arts Academy, University of Ballarat, Ballarat - \$15,000

Written and directed by Donna Jackson, *Dust* is a new work celebrating the endurance, integrity, and courage of those affected by asbestos related diseases. A creative collaboration between artists and those affected, *Dust* will be performed in Ballarat and Melbourne and contribute to a public awareness campaign.

***Imagine Alice; Place and Identity – Residency*** KKHSA Pty Ltd, Port Fairy - \$6,300

Vicki Couzens, an indigenous artist from Port Fairy will develop and install an ephemeral installation in collaboration with other regional artists from different states, in a short term residency at the Regional Arts Australia conference in Alice Springs.