



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release Thursday, 18 December 2008

\$68,290 IN REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR VICTORIA

The Minister for the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM, has announced that funding for 5 projects totalling \$68,290 will go to regional, rural and remote communities across Victoria.

The funds are part of \$779,728 in funding through the Regional Arts Fund, an Australian Government program administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.

"This round was the most competitive to date," Mike Zafiroopoulos, Chair of Regional Arts Victoria, said. "It is heartening to see a number of applications using music, performance and photography to engage communities and celebrate local cultural identity. There was a strong emphasis on communities working with experienced regional arts practitioners to tell their stories."

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

- In Shepparton, Berry Street will teach disadvantaged young people and adults with a disability how to take photos and use their images to tell their stories in an exhibition at the Shepparton Art Gallery.
- In Natimuk, locally-based artist Dave Jones will work with the Arapiles Community Theatre to create and direct an innovative animated film celebrating the iconic Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall.
- In Castlemaine, Barking Owl Theatre will work with local young people to create a vibrant, intriguing outdoor sculptural installation dance/movement project during the 2009 Castlemaine State and Fringe Festivals.
- In Warburton, the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Nick Papas (founding member of Born in a Taxi) will work with a team of up to 200 community members and local artists to create improvised movement performances in multiple public spaces.
- In Bendigo, the Gorgeous Voices Festival will partner with culturally and linguistically diverse organisations, educational institutions, local government, professional performers, and community choirs to present a new opera by two regional composers celebrating music and singing.

The Regional Arts Fund was established to give all Australians, wherever they live, better access to opportunities to practice 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.

For more information, please contact:

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REGIONAL ARTS FUND PROJECTS
Round 2, 2008
VICTORIA
5 projects totalling \$68,290

Couch

Barking Owl Theatre

\$10,000

Couches. Hiphop. Break. Parkour. A vibrant, intriguing outdoor sculptural installation dance/movement project, made with/by local youth, during the 2009 Castlemaine State and Fringe Festivals.

Turn the Page

Berry Street

\$13,290

Disadvantaged young people and adults with a disability learning to take photos and use their images to tell their stories in an exhibition at the Shepparton Art Gallery.

Storming

Shire of Yarra Ranges

\$15,000

Up to 200 community member and a team of 10 local artists will work with Nick Papas (founding member of Born in a Taxi) to create improvised movement performances in multiple public spaces.

Rhyme of the Ancient Merino

Arapiles Community Theatre

\$15,000

An innovative animated film celebrating the iconic Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall; created and directed by Dave Jones, Natimuk based, internationally renowned, animation and multimedia artist.

Mercy Will Carry My Feet

Gorgeous Voices Festival

\$15,000

Mercy Will Carry My Feet is a unique partnership between culturally and linguistically diverse organisations, educational institutions, local government, professional performers, community choirs and the presentation of highlights from a new opera by two regional composers celebrating music and singing at the Gorgeous Voices Festival, Bendigo.