



**Australian Government**  
**Regional Arts Fund**



***MEDIA RELEASE***  
**22 October 2007**

## **\$183,910 OF REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR VICTORIA**

The Director of Regional Arts Victoria, Lindy Allen, has just announced that funding for 15 projects totalling \$183,910 will go to regional, rural and remote communities across Victoria.

Funds are being provided 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 a celebration of local cultural identity," the Director of Regional Arts Victoria Lindy Allen said. "Projects will explore the many ways in which historical, geographical and environmental factors influence the way people think and feel about their towns."

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

- In Mildura a creative team led by artist Kim Chalmers will work with community groups to gather imagery, sounds and historical information to create a performance piece titled *Elements*. The work will examine Mildura's identity as a river region and how to restore the balance between industry and the environment. The new work will be performed at the 2008 Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival.
- *Todos Arte* or 'Total Art' in Spanish will bring together a broad cross-section of people from the Wodonga community to learn skills, share stories and explore points of connection and difference. A two-week program of free art workshops will see the community work with professional artists to create sculpture, costumes and décor for Carnivale Wodonga Wild.
- In Horsham renowned Australian bell sculptor, Anton Hassel, will create a public art sculpture reintegrating the historic Post Office bell into contemporary Horsham life. Anton will work with local artists and community groups to cast additional bells and collect local stories and images to be laser cut into steel.
- *Collaborating with Chaos* brings together seven local artists and the largely agricultural based community of Foster in Gippsland. Through a forum, artists and community members will discuss internationally-recognised Professor Michael Barnsley's research around chaos. As a direct response to the forum, artists will collaborate to create sculptures for a public art space.

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 2, 2007- VICTORIA**  
**15 projects totalling \$183,910**

***Fibre as Artform*** Mandy Gunn and Meg Viney, Meeniyana - \$5,050

Two experienced, professional artists will engage local fibre and textile artists from the Gippsland region in a series of intensive workshops. *Fibre as Artform* will provide professional development within an experimental and collaborative environment. The works produced during the workshops will create an exhibition that will tour to various regional Victorian galleries including Meeniyana Gallery and Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale.

***Chorale Expansions, 2008 Musical Season*** Bendigo Chorale Inc, Bendigo - \$10,300

Throughout 2008 the Bendigo Chorale will work with composer and conductor Rohan Phillips to create and perform three new compositions. The works will be tailored to the ability and personality of the Chorale and its guest artists, with the aim of linking classical repertoire with contemporary experience.

***Art Stop*** Golden Plains Shire Council, Bannockburn - \$15,000

*Art Stop* builds on a successful pilot project carried out by Golden Plains Shire in 2006/07. The project responds to key transport issues in the community by converting school bus stops into 'Art Stops'. Local professional artists will work with local young people who use the bus stops to create seven 'Art Stops'.

***Youth Arts Access Project*** Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton - \$7,600

Four practising artists will be engaged to mentor the newly formed youth art group at the Shepparton Art Gallery. Through a series of workshops the group will be exposed to traditional and physical art making skills to extend their creative ideas in developing new work. The works in progress will be exhibited through an online virtual gallery, allowing for blogs and discussion which will help to extend the concepts of the project and the development of individual works.

***Suzanne Project- Stage 2*** Dawn Whitehead, Warrnambool - \$9,460

Stage 2 of the *Suzanne Project*, will take this new play by disabled playwright Dawn Whitehead, *Suzanne*, the next step towards public performance. *Suzanne* is a semi-autobiographical, darkly comic and authentically moving theatre piece which explores the realities of living with a disability. Stage 2 continues the creative development of the play through the delivery of six creative workshops led by a creative team of professional theatre practitioners. The workshops will explore possibilities including new media, dual character depiction and musical accompaniment.

***How To Do Words With Things*** Patrick Jones and Peter O'Mara, Daylesford - \$15,000

Development of new work for an art/text publication titled, *How to do Words with Things*. The publication will utilise new and traditional forms of communication, leading the reader into an excursion of poetic and visual surprise. *How to do Words with Things* will be launched at the 2008 Words in Winter Festival (Daylesford) and will include an exhibition of visual poems and community workshops.

***Tidelik*** Joyce Nowrungsah, Paynesville - \$6,500

The community of East Gippsland has recently experienced drought followed by major flooding. *Tidelik* will be a living land sculpture, honouring the Indigenous legend of 'Tidelik the frog' who drank all the water from the land causing a drought and then flooded the lakes and rivers after he was made to laugh. The sculpture will be created using innovative methods of construction and architectural practices and will include hand-crafted ceramic marbles made by the local Indigenous community as part of workshops with Jennifer Mullett.

***Parkside Estate Community Art Project*** Goulburn Valley Community Health Service, Shepparton - \$15,000

A community art project designed and developed by local Parkside Estate residents and local school students as part of the stage 2 Parkside Estate Neighbourhood Renewal redevelopments. Local artist Angie Russi will work with the estate community to create a permanent sculpture as installation that is reflective of the residents' stories and responsive to the physical space in which it will be placed.

***Collaborating with Chaos*** Prom Coast Arts Council Inc, Foster - \$15,000

*Collaborating with Chaos* brings together seven local artists and the agricultural and environment based community of Foster. Through a forum artists and community members will discuss internationally recognised Professor Michael Barnsley's research around contemporary chaos. As a direct response to the forum artists will collaborate to create sculptures for a public art space.

***Todos Arte*** City of Wodonga, Wodonga - \$15,000

*Todos Arte* or 'Total Art' in Spanish will bring together a broad cross section of people from the Wodonga community to learn skills, share stories and explore points of connection and difference through art. A two week program of free art workshops will see the community come together with professional artists to create sculpture, costumes and décor for Carnivale Wodonga Wild.

***Interior Complexities*** Brophy Family Youth Services, Warrnambool - \$15,000

*Interior Complexities* will engage a diverse group of young people together with a team of artists to design and create artworks for Brophy's Community and Youth Complex. The art work will consist of: animations and short films telling

the stories of young people; an Indigenous theme floor stencil showing the lifecycle of the Kuuyang (short-finned eel); and an environmental sculpture installation inspired by the Western District environment.

***Lit from Within*** Greg Pritchard, Natimuk - \$10,000

A contemporary and innovative narrative performance informed by the local stories and imagery of Natimuk. The performance will take place inside a delicate inflatable space and will also involve digital projection, live VJ mixing and lighting effects.

***The Seal Wife (Mildura)*** The Old Van Ltd, Mildura - \$15,000

The project is the staging of a full scale production of *The Seal Wife*, a multi-art-form collaboration, between professional & non professional participants to be performed in the Mildura area. The project includes a four week art workshop series involving community participants as cast, crew and supporting volunteers. The project will culminate in an outdoor performance season over three nights.

***Elements*** Kim Chalmers, Mildura - \$15,000

*Elements* is a multi-media performance art work examining the community of Mildura and their identity as river region residents and how to restore the balance between industry and the environment. The artistic team will work with community groups to gather imagery, sounds and historical information to create the performance piece that will consist of dance, music and moving image. The new work will be performed at the 2008 Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival.

***Bell Chance*** Horsham Rural City Council, Horsham - \$15,000

Renowned Australian bell sculptor, Anton Hassel, will create a public art sculpture reintegrating the historic Post Office bell into contemporary Horsham life. Anton will work with local artists and community groups to cast additional bells and collect local stories and images to be laser cut into steel.