

## Media Release

30 May 2005

### Regional arts funding for Victoria

Regional Arts Victoria, today announced the latest round of successful Victorian funding under the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) program.

'Three regional cultural partnership projects are to receive seed funding of \$120 000 over three years each to foster community projects and support local artists through the employment of full time regional arts development officers,' CEO Lindy Bartholomew said.

'This funding reflects RAV's view that regional cultural partnerships are making a very valuable contribution to the cultural, economic and social wellbeing of communities.'

Communities in Wellington Shire, the rural City of Horsham, Hindmarsh Shire, Yarriambiak Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Golden Plains and Surfcoast Shire will benefit from the Regional Cultural Partnerships and will receive additional funding from the Victorian State Government and local governments to support these partnership projects.

In addition, funding totalling \$78,000 has been allocated to support arts project initiatives including:

- *Nati Frinj 2005*, workshops on digital film making, installation art and visual arts to support experienced and emerging local artists at an arts festival in the Wimmera town of Natimuk.
- *Traditional Campsite Project*, local Indigenous community leaders and artists will share Aboriginal culture with primary school students at the Croc Festival in Swan Hill.
- *Stories of the Upper Murray*, a multimedia project involving artists, communities and historians from the Upper Murray area and Albury, working collaboratively to present the stories behind significant local historic artefacts.

The Australian Government has committed over \$2 million in regional arts funding to Victorians for the 2004-2008 period as part of a nationwide Regional Arts Fund program.

The RAF assists community-based cultural development in regional, remote and isolated areas in Australia. It aims to achieve sustainable cultural development by facilitating partnerships and networks, assisting the professional development and employment of regional artists and funding community projects.

Regional Arts Victoria manages the Fund in Victoria on behalf of the Australian Government. Assistance is available across all art form for projects that encourage community participation in regional arts development.

More information about the Regional Arts Fund is available from Regional Arts Victoria on Tel: 03 9644 1800 or online at: [www.rav.net.au](http://www.rav.net.au)

A full list of funded projects is attached.

## REGIONAL ARTS FUND – Victoria

### Regional Cultural Partnerships:

Supported by The Regional Arts Fund, Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund Regional Arts Development Officers (RADOs) will be employed in the following regions:

***The Wellington Shire***, \$40,000 for 3 years

The small and remote communities outlying Sale (including Licola, Briagolong, Glenmaggie, Seaspray, Golden Beach, and Yarram) will benefit from having a RADO to develop a cultural policy for the region, assist in networking and information sharing and exploring business/arts collaborations to support sustainability.

***Horsham Rural City Council***, \$40,000 for 3 years

(In partnership with Hindmarsh, Yarriambiak and Northern Grampians Shires)

The RADO will develop cultural plans, expand volunteer arts groups and existing activities including festivals and events and facilitate an artist-in-schools program.

***Surfcoast and Golden Plains Shires***, \$40,000. for 3 years

This partnership will benefit from a RADO to map cultural resources, develop a cultural strategy for the region and integrate planning and program development between arts and other council programs.



### Project Grants:

*Nati Frinj 2005*, \$10,000

**Arapiles Community Theatre**

Workshops and events bringing together experienced and emerging artists will be held at a three day arts festival in the Wimmera town of Natimuk.

*Night and Day*, \$2,000

**Anthony Pelchen**

Two new works for exhibition at the Natimuk Festival in November 2005 will explore the theme of the human body in space and both landscape and interior space, with the support of a regional artist.

*Alohim: Investigations of the Luminary*, \$10,000

**Gretchen Hillhouse**

A sculptural installation using objects, sound and scent will go on display at the Castlemaine Art Gallery.

*Through the Mist*, \$12,000

**Hepburn Health Service**

Artists Melissa Brave and Catherine Ryan will support the rehearsal and production stage of the *Through the Mist* theatre project.

*Traditional Campsite Project*, \$10,000

**Verna Eade**

A colourful traditional campsite of shelters and fire holes with leaders and artists from the local Indigenous community sharing local Aboriginal culture with primary school students at the Croc Festival in Swan Hill.

*Owning Our Lot*, \$10,000

**Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

A component of a large multi-art form and community event focussing on a youth performance.

*Stories of the Upper Murray*, \$10,000

**Murray Arts**

A multimedia project involving artists, communities and historians from the Upper Murray area and Albury, working collaboratively to present local stories of significant historic artefacts.

*Bogong Moth Dreaming*, \$14,000

**Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Corporation**

A partnership project with local Indigenous elders, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and local musicians, artists, dancers and a composer, to create a performance for the opening of the Ngan Girra Festival in Albury. The story tells of the coming together of Aboriginal groups prior to travelling to the high plains to feast on the Bogong Moths.