

MEDIA RELEASE  
Friday 11 January 2019



## A new year inspiring arts across the state

The time is now at Regional Arts Victoria with January holding a number of opportunities for artists, producers and presenters.

### REGIONAL ARTS FUND – OPENS 14 January, 9am

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia.

From **14 January**, artists based in the regions may be eligible to apply for **Community Grants** or **Quick Response Grants**. Please see website for closing dates.

The **objectives of the Fund** are to support and promote participation in, and access to, arts and culture in regional and remote Australia by:

- Increasing employment and professional development opportunities for, and raising the profile of, regional and remote artists.
- Encouraging and supporting sustainable economic, social and cultural development in regional communities;
- Developing partnerships and networks that leverage financial and/or in-kind support for specific projects and encourage ongoing collaboration;
- Developing audiences and broadening community engagement with the arts.



*Image by Rachel Kendrigan. Body/Landscape Mildura workshop. Quick Response Grant recipient 2018.*  
<http://www.rav.net.au/funding-opportunities/regional-arts-fund/>

## COMMUNITY PRESENTER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM – CLOSES 22 January, 5pm

Through Regional Arts Victoria’s Connecting Places program, **five Community Presenters** have the **opportunity to further their practice** by working with experienced presenters to expand their knowledge and skill base. This program is **growing local arts leadership and sustainable practice within regional communities** through understanding of audience development, marketing and technical planning, community engagement and leadership.

2019 is the second year of this mentorship program.

*“... [the] more learning opportunities and exchange of ideas ... are available to small and often remote community presenters, the more vibrant the arts will be across the state...”* says **Clare Ryan**, Chameleon Arts Collective, Balmoral.

Connecting Places Manager, **Rosie Dwyer** says *“this mentorship program is about building connections and skills between regional and remote community presenters. There are incredible people doing incredible things in the regions, by connecting people together and sharing knowledge, we start to see a strong and sustainable network of regional communities creating their own arts experiences”*.

**Connecting Places** is Regional Arts Victoria’s community touring program supporting community presenters to develop their audiences and build arts participation.



Image by Pollyannar, Creative Gippsland Come Play in May 2018.

<http://www.rav.net.au/performing-arts-touring/creative-communities/mentorships/>

## SHOWCASE VICTORIA – CLOSSES 22 January, 1pm

Victoria's performing arts market place returns in 2019 taking over the **Karralyka Centre, Ringwood** by bringing arts leaders from across the state together to meet artists and direct touring for 2020-21. Particularly for artists and producers, **22 January is the closing date** for the **opportunity to showcase their work** during the event.

Showcase Victoria is a collaboration between Regional Arts Victoria and the Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres.



Image by Lee Sandwith. *Lady Beatle* by The Little Red Company and Critical Stages. Showcase Victoria 2018.  
<https://www.showcasevictoria.com.au/>

## AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE FOUNDATION COMMISSION – CLOSSES 28 January, 5pm

The Australian Children's Theatre Foundation **commissions the development of a new work every two years** aimed at primary school aged children. Applications are now open for development in 2019.

Former recipient **Jenny Ellis**, Little Wing Puppets, says, *"It was a wonderful opportunity for me as an artist to receive the Joan and Betty Rayner Commission. I strongly believe in the importance of making high-quality theatre for children, and making it accessible to people in remote areas. The support that I received in the form of the commission made it possible for me to continue this work.*

*One of the most difficult things for me as a freelance puppeteer is carving out the time to create new work. Receiving the commission allowed me that space and the time to experiment."*



Image by Jenny Ellis, *Spike* by Little Wing Puppets. 2013-14 commissioned work.  
<http://www.rav.net.au/arts-and-education/actf-commission/>

**The 10 Year Anniversary of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS Program – CLOSES 31 January**

Regional Arts Victoria is administering community arts grants on behalf of the Victorian Government to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Under the **Community Arts Grants Program** funding is available for creative projects that reflect the experiences of local communities. The program is available to the **21 local government areas** directly affected by the 2009 Bushfires.

Regional Arts Victoria CEO **Joe Toohey** said that this program will assist impacted communities to deliver locally relevant projects.

*“Regional Arts Victoria will work alongside artists and their communities, ensuring each has an opportunity to define how they reflect on their experiences of the 2009 bushfires,”* Joe said.



*Image courtesy of the State Government of Victoria. 2018.*  
<http://www.rav.net.au/funding-opportunities/community-arts-grants/>

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**Regional Arts Victoria** is the peak body for regional artists and arts organisations in Victoria and the leading organisation for regional creative practice in Victoria. We are inspired by arts across the state, and through partnerships, programming and projects, we develop creative practice all over Victoria.

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*Joe Toohey, CEO Regional Arts Victoria is available for interview.*

**Media Contact:** Catherine French 03 9644 1802 | [cfrench@rav.net.au](mailto:cfrench@rav.net.au)